

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LIII.]

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BIRTHS.

On the 5th June, at 15A, Naminohira Hill, Nagasaki, the wife of E. G. E. FORSTER, H.B.M.'s Acting Consul, of a son.

On the 6th June, at No. 4 Larut Road, Penang, the wife of F. HOLLEY, of a daughter.

On the 7th June, 1901, at Philadelphia, Pa., U.S.A., the wife of FRANCIS HATHAWAY HASKELL, of Shanghai, of a daughter.

On the 12th June, 1901, at Peking, the wife of H. GENSBURGER, of a son.

On the 14th June, at No. 11, Salisbury Avenue, Kowloon, the wife of A. M. DE SOUZA, I. M. Customs Service, of a son.

MARRIAGE.

On the 6th June, at St. George's Church, Penang, by the Rev. H. C. Henham, HENRY JAMES NOEL WALKER, eldest son of Sir E. Noel WALKER, K.C.M.G., to EMILY LOUISA, fifth daughter of the late Sir Frederick WHITAKER, K.C.M.G., late of Auckland, New Zealand.

DEATHS.

On the 9th June, 1901, at the General Hospital, Shanghai, FREDERICK HERBERT SAWYER, of the Imperial Bank of China, Shanghai.

On the 14th June, at the Kennedy Town Hospital, JOHN BROWNELL, of Inverkeithing, Fifeshire, Scotland.

On the 16th June, at 2.30 a.m., ADELIN WILHELMINE, the dearly beloved wife of Edward HERBST, deeply regretted by her sorrowful Husband, Children and Parents.

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The French mail of the 17th May arrived per M. M. steamer *Salazie*, on the 16th June (30 days); the Canadian mail of the 27th May arrived, per C. P. R. steamer *Empress of India*, on the 17th June (21 days); the American mail of the 21st May arrived, per O. & O. steamer *Coptic*, on the 19th June (29 days); and the English mail of the 24th May arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Sunda*, on the 21st June (23 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Lieut. General Fukushima reached Tokyo from Peking on the 6th inst.

Sun Yat-sen, the Chinese reformer, left Honolulu for China on the 5th instant.

The Chinese merchants in America are forming a strong movement for a repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act.

The French Minister to Seoul has presented a note to the Emperor, calling for the strict punishment of the Quelpart rioters.

It is now stated that, with the exception of the Legation guard, all the German troops to remain in China will be stationed at Shanghai.

The *Echo de Chine* learns that eight vessels freighted by the French Government left Marseilles on the 10th inst. in order to bring the French troops back from China.

Lord Cranborne informed the House of Commons last week that the commanders of the allied forces in China consider a garrison of 6,000 men necessary, exclusive of the Legation guards.

It is understood in Paris that the Powers which formerly supported a guaranteed indemnity loan, have abandoned the proposal, and now support the British suggestion for the issue of bonds.

The American Civil Commission at Manila is honouring the Filipino people by renaming the amalgamated provinces of Manila and Morong, the "Rizal Province," after the Filipino patriot killed by the Spaniards.

The foreign representatives at Peking are pushing the question of the Whangpoo river conservancy, and to have requested the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce to send a representative to Peking to discuss the details of the scheme.

Signor Prinetti, Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, speaking in the Italian Chamber, said that Italy adhered unreservedly to the Anglo-German agreement concerning China, and that she only desired a settlement at Tientsin and elsewhere as occasion arises.

It is stated that Great Britain has informed the Powers that she objects to China increasing the duty on imports of opium and rice. The State Department of the United States, however, has instructed Mr. Rockhill to oppose any attempt on the part of any nation to have particular imports exempted from increased duty.

It was stated last week from London that Lord Cranborne's confirmation of the presence of a German garrison at Shanghai has caused considerable uneasiness. Lord Cranborne, questioned in the House, said that he had received no statement from the German Government bearing on the retention of a German garrison.

A Tientsin despatch to the *Osaka Asahi* states that the railway between Peking and Shanhaikwan will be handed over to the Chinese Government in a fortnight's time, while the line between Peking and Tientsin will be guarded by the Japanese and German troops, and the line between Tientsin and Shanhaikwan by the British troops.

The latest plague figures for Hongkong from the beginning of the year to noon yesterday, were:—1,406 cases, 1,334 deaths.

Yuan Shikai's mother died on the 15th inst. It was earnestly hoped that the usual retirement for mourning would be prevented, as otherwise certain calamity seemed to await Shantung, in the absence of Yuan Shikai. However, an Imperial Decree orders Yuan Shikai to retire to the yamen at Chinanfu for one hundred days. Meanwhile the Treasurer of the province is appointed Acting Governor, but is ordered to consult Yuan Shikai on all important matters.

In the House of Commons on the 16th ult. Sir Howard Vincent asked whether it is contemplated to confer any honours in respect of the services of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and other land forces in China, bearing in mind that those earned by the Royal Navy have been already conferred. Lord Stanley said despatches had been received in regard to the question of conferring honours for services rendered by the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and other land forces in China, and they were now being considered.

A Peking letter to a native paper says that the Luhan railway is already built from Tingchow to Hainlesien a distance of over 100 li. It is currently believed that the Imperial party on their return to Peking will experience the novel sensation of travelling by train. The Hankow end of the line has made more progress than the Northern end, more especially as the Southern end was not destroyed by Boxers. The *Mercury* says:—We are all waiting anxiously to see the completion of the line, at least as far as the famous anthracite coal regions of Honan. We may then hope that the nuisance of Japanese coal will be abated in Shanghai.

Hankow has been much excited over the opening of Hunan, and a rush is being made to Changsha, according to the *N.-C. Daily News*. The German steamer *Vorwaerts*, formerly the West River boat *Wuchow*, has been up to Changsha and has been taking soundings and surveying. It is rumoured that one of the German lines on the river will soon extend its service to Changsha. The French gunboat *Decidie* has also gone to Tungting Lake, and will get up to Changsha, if possible. H.M.S. *Saipa* is also to go up as soon as a Consular interpreter can be spared to go in her. H.M.S. *Woodlark* will also probably start soon on an exploring mission.

According to telegrams from Sebastopol, Vice-Admiral Alexeeff cabled last month to the Minister of Marine asking that more vessels shall be sent out to reinforce the Russian fleet in Chinese waters. His demand is said to be based on a fear of future serious political troubles. The Ministry of Marine, it is said, has ordered the despatch to the Far East of the following additional ships:—

Ship.	Class.	Tonnage (knots).	Crew.
<i>Oslabya</i> , 1st class battleship		12,674	18 732
<i>Peresviet</i>		12,674	18 732
<i>Varyag</i>	cruiser	6,500	23 571
<i>Pallada</i>		6,630	20 550
<i>Askold</i>		6,000	23 510
<i>Novik</i> , 2nd class		3,000	25 250
Two large ships for use as torpedo depot ships are also to be sent.			

AFTER THE ALLIED OCCUPATION.

(Daily Press, 17th June.)

That it would be better for all concerned that China should work out her own salvation is a sentiment in which all may agree, and the only question to the front is whether or not there is any evidence that there is enough vitality left in the body politic to recover from the shock of the past twelve months. If we examine into what has been the result of our occupation of Chihli, the same reply meets us from every side that, except in the spots actually garrisoned by the foreign troops, the state of disorganisation of the country is far worse than before the occupation. This is not a reassuring statement, yet it is the plain fact, and one that affords much cause for reflection. That both sides are to blame is, we fear, indisputable; on the one side the foreigner has done many things that have not tended to raise him in the estimation of the inhabitants, and on the other the officials with whom we descended to treat were themselves too deeply involved in the continuance of abuses to desire to bring about any real understanding. While such was the character of the so-called peace envoys, the Court that they represented was equally suspicious of its self-appointed emissaries and of its people at large. Even before the palace *coup d'état* the breach between Peking and the provinces has been growing daily wider; the supercession of the Emperor and the reign of folly that succeeded served only to widen the breach; while our forced acceptance as a go-between of the ex-Viceroy LI HUNG-CHANG, who had lost the confidence of both sovereign and viceroys by his traitorous intrigues with Russia, only completed the confusion. It formed no part of Li's plan to bring about a reconciliation; a *persona grata* to no party, whichever came upon him he had nothing to hope for, and his only prospect lay in preventing an understanding, and his entire energies have been devoted to this end. The Court and its surroundings had equally no desire to bring about a reconciliation, and in this point alone it consistently worked with the arch intriguer. On the other hand the great viceroys were sincerely desirous for the restoration of order, and in this they were unexpectedly assisted by the Governor of Shantung. LIU KUNG-YI openly declined to follow the reactionary party in its career of madness, and was sufficiently strong to engage in the cause of order his colleague in the Hu provinces; the Futai of Shensi, Manchou though he was, refused to have his province made a focus of disorder, and fortunately in the long run the newly appointed Viceroy of the two Kwangs, TAO MU, was sufficiently patriotic to follow the like course. On the one hand then we have the curious spectacle that the nominal government of the Empire is bent on carrying on to the end those principles of misgovernment that have reduced the state to its present condition, while the most powerful of the provincials are equally determined to maintain within their jurisdictions the universal principles of law and order. To a certain extent our Government has had the good sense to see this and act on it, and on the Yangtze at least has succeeded in maintaining a good understanding with the viceroys: had it pursued a like course in the north, there is some evidence that its efforts there might have been equally successful. It, however, preferred there to coquette with the elements of disorder; and the consequence is that after eight months of ineffectual effort, the man of its choice has proved the truth of the advice given, but

rejected, and after leading it into the jaws of destruction has finally ended by plunging the state into even worse difficulties than it had to face at the beginning. If matters had gone no further than this, a little insistence would possibly have been efficient in bringing affairs to a conclusion, but the measures being taken to induce the return of the Court are unfortunately being made use of to bring about a reaction. Conscious of our failure when opposed to so accomplished a manipulator as Li we have gone into the other extreme, and left to him and the Court clique almost a free hand. Little indications from time to time indicate the line of policy intended to be pursued by these worthies. The Futai of Shensi who at the beginning declined to follow the example of the notorious YU HSIEN is only the first marked out for vengeance; and we studiously decline to interfere, and stand by while he is being made the subject of persecution. The Futai of Shensi as the weakest is only the first selected for vengeance. The appetite for crime increases with its enjoyment, and the victims are not intended to end with one martyr. No man has incurred so deeply as the Viceroy at Nanking the insatiable hatred of the Dowager Tsz'HI; she has been foiled so far, but she is not a woman to pause when the end is the destruction of an enemy who has stood in her way; and if we weakly permit this last reactionary effort to once gain headway, we shall have to answer before many months are past for a revival of the horrors of last June.

BLUE BOOK, CHINA NO. 5.

(Daily Press, 18th June.)

The Blue Book, China No. 5 (1901), which reached this Colony by Sunday's French mail, is entitled *Further Correspondence concerning the Disturbances in China*, and takes up the story from the point at which it stopped in China No. 1 (1901). It commences with a letter from Sir F. PLUNKETT to the Marquis of SALISBURY, dated Vienna, 27th September, 1900, and terminates with one from Lord LANSDOWNE to Sir E. SATOW on the 31st December. As is usually the case with Blue Books there is little contained in the correspondence that is new. Light is thrown on the rather tortuous negotiations among the Powers themselves and between them and China over the punishment of the officials guilty of complicity in the so-called "Boxer" rising and the violation of the sanctity of ambassadors. From the Blue Book the attitudes of the various Powers stand out more clearly than before, but otherwise the documents before serve mainly to confirm what we have learnt before from unofficial and semi-official sources.

One of the earliest documents of interest is a letter from Lord SALISBURY to Sir F. LASCELLES, dated the 2nd October, in which is the purport of a conversation with Count HATZFELDT. To the German proposals on the question of punishment, Lord SALISBURY made two reservations. He would not agree to the participation of British troops in any expedition to the west of the Province of Chihli to ensure that certain offenders were at all costs to be arrested; and considered that, in the event of China refusing to deliver the offenders, Her Majesty's Government must retain liberty of action to enter into any agreements with the Chinese Government which it might be to the interests of Great Britain to make.

The actual starting point of negotiations was a memorandum communicated to Lord SALISBURY by M. CAMBON, French ambas-

sador in London, on the 4th October, 1900, in which the following bases of negotiations were suggested by the French Government for consideration:—Punishment of the chief culprits; maintenance of the prohibition of the import of arms; equitable indemnities for States, societies, and individuals; establishment of a permanent Legation guard at Peking; dismantlement of the Taku Forts; military occupation of two or three points between Tientsin and Taku. The French Government thought it "impossible that such legitimate conditions, presented collectively by the representatives of the Powers, and supported by the presence of the international troops, should fail to be speedily accepted by the Chinese Government." With the discussion of these terms, their modification, and the phrasing of the demand on the Chinese Government, the Blue Book is chiefly engaged. To the French proposals all the Governments adhered in principle, as Lord SALISBURY stated in a communication to Sir E. Monson on the 17th October. He himself, on behalf of the British Government, agreed to the basis, subject to each Power holding a fort of its own on the Tientsin-Taku road, instead of the forts being garrisoned internationally. The United States accepted the French basis under reserve, and wished the Powers to make a collective declaration of their determination to preserve the territorial integrity and the administrative entirety of China, with open and equal commercial intercourse between China and the world. On the 23rd November Sir E. SATOW telegraphed to Lord LANSDOWNE the news of the actual drafting of the Note and on the 24th that all the Ministers were agreed upon the text. However, the Government of the United States was not perfectly satisfied and urged that the negotiations might be shipwrecked by insisting upon conditions too difficult of performance for China, and from which it would be impossible for the Powers to draw back, and Mr. HAY objected more particularly to the use of the words "irrevocable conditions." On the 7th December Sir E. SATOW telegraphed that authority to sign the note had been received by the United States Minister and to retain the word "irrevocable." However, it was not until the 22nd December that Mr. CONGER actually signed the Note, in which the word "irrevocable" was retained, but "absolutely" omitted. On the 24th of the same month the Note, duly signed, was presented to Prince CHING, and four days later the Imperial Decree was communicated by the Chinese plenipotentiaries in which the Emperor accepted the principles laid down in the twelve Articles presented in their entirety.

THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE GOVERNMENT.

(Daily Press, 19th June.)

It may not unnaturally have caused a little surprise that at the recent meeting of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce certain members should have thought it necessary to attempt to explain away a very reasonable letter of the Chamber to the local Government with regard to the sanitation of the Colony. In particular, those who remember the strong position taken up by the same Chamber in the great plague year, 1894, will wonder what has happened since then to furnish any reason for the timid opinions expressed on the 11th instant. With so excellent a precedent to follow, surely the Chamber had every cause to write as they did in their letter of the 7th instant. The Chairman spoke at the monthly meeting of his "holy horror of interference in any way in local politics."

But, after all, the whole point of the Chamber's letter was the serious damage to the trade of Hongkong from the present epidemic. The local Chamber of Commerce, we take it, has among its most important functions the protection of the trade of Hongkong, vitally threatened by the continual ravages of plague on this island. The ratepayers, from whom Sir THOMAS JACKSON thought that such a representation would more fitly come, are not purely commercial. They are all alike, of course, interested in the welfare of the port and in the sanitation of the place in which they live. This, however, does not by any means preclude the commercial community from having a special interest in the question of the Colony's health, and the Chamber of Commerce was well within its rights in addressing the local Government as it did. Even the Chairman expressed the hope that the letter sent in might be productive of much good. We fail to understand, therefore, why any members of the Chamber should have been at pains to minimise its effect.

The reply of the Government to the Chamber's letter is very little to the point. Undoubtedly many reckless statements have been made in the correspondence columns of the local Press. People suffering under an intolerable state of affairs are not apt to pick their phrases, or even to stop short of exaggeration in presenting their case. Various departments of the Government, however, have not been slow to adopt suggestions conveyed in the "reckless" remarks thus put forward, so that the writers have at least the satisfaction of not having written in vain. We are told that the various matters discussed in the Chamber's letter "have long been subjects of most anxious consideration by those whose professional knowledge and experience best fitted them to advise upon them." This being so, residents in Hongkong would like to see some manifestations of this professional knowledge and experience. Such qualifications cannot well be taken on trust. It is any easy matter for a salaried arm-chair expert to say he has been considering such steps, but if he does not take these steps until their omission has become a widely discussed scandal, he cannot complain that he is not the recipient of public confidence. A little initiative on the part of the Government would do much. But this was true at least seven years ago.

JAPAN'S FOREIGN TRADE IN 1900.

(Daily Press, 20th June.)

The report on the foreign trade of Japan in 1900, which was issued in London last month, is compiled by Mr. ARTHUR HYDE LAY. It opens by pointing to the check upon the rapidly expanding export trade of Japan caused by events in China. The indications in the autumn of 1899 were that 1900 would offer splendid opportunities for business; consequently large quantities of goods were ordered abroad, and the year opened with a feeling of over-confidence in Japanese commercial circles. "It soon became apparent, however," says Mr. LAY, "that the outflow of specie, which had already begun, was likely to increase and that the large arrivals of commodities would find an increasingly stringent money market." He goes on to say that unproductive expenditure, or expenditure on works only remotely productive, continues to bear an abnormal ratio to the wealth and resources of Japan, that but little of her large wage expenditure in connection with defence-works, armaments, railways, etc., goes to

form capital in aid of production, and that in these circumstances "the tendency to an excess of imports over exports and consequent drain of specie must continue to exist, and an adequate cash reserve can be maintained only at a sacrifice of ease in the money market, by a prudent limitation of the Government bank-note circulation and of credit facilities. The flotation of foreign loans can afford only temporary relief in this respect, and bearing in mind the improbability under the most favourable circumstance of any but a quite gradual increase in wealth derived from resources at present undeveloped, it is evident that the palliative of borrowing is one which should be resorted to with the greatest circumspection." The actual exodus of gold coin and bullion in 1900 revived the financial anxiety with regard to the reserves in 1899. The reserve fund in the National Bank fell steadily every month; at the end of January it was £10,851,700, at the end of May £8,707,000, at the end of September £7,262,255, and at the end of December £6,693,802. Gold coin and bullion were exported to the value of £5,283,998 in 1900, while the amount introduced was worth only £915,402. Most of the outflow went to India and the United States. Mr. LAY says: "Before the present drain ceases, the loss of some more gold may be expected, and the required quantity will no doubt be obtainable, but it is difficult to see what arrangements can be made. A possible means suggested is the deferring of a portion of the post-bellum programme."

However, to set against this gloomy view of the financial situation, Mr. LAY's remarks on the total trade of Japan in 1900 may be quoted, and with this we shall leave the remainder of the report for consideration elsewhere. Mr. LAY says:—"Foreign trade for 1899 had reached the highest figures recorded since Japan first had commercial dealings with other nations. That record, however, was in its turn surpassed by the result revealed by the returns for the year just ended. In 1900 the value of imports was £29,324,646, of exports £20,868,895, giving a grand total of £50,193,541. Japan continues to make constant progress in all directions, and the trade of the country keeps pace with the advance taking place and with the accompanying growth in the national requirements. One is, therefore, led to the conclusion that when the unpropitious conditions at present existing—many of which are in their nature transient—are removed, a great and lasting expansion of the foreign trade of the Empire can be hoped for with confidence, until Japan attains in the commercial world a position more commensurate with the rank she has gained in the sphere of international politics."

The *Ostasiatische Lloyd* of the 7th inst., in a lengthy editorial, criticises the withdrawal of the German troops and the Commander-in-Chief, Count von Waldersee, from China, and considers the move a great mistake on the part of the German Government. Our contemporary thinks the situation as bad as ever, and that though China has agreed to pay 450 million taels to the Allied Powers, there is no guarantee for the payment of the same, nor any reliable assurance that the outrages of last year will not be repeated at an early date. The German journal further hints that England had something to do with the move that caused the departure of Count Waldersee, on the ground that most English papers applaud Germany's action of withdrawing the bulk of her troops. The *Ostasiatische Lloyd* amiably remarks that English papers usually only praise such actions of other Powers as bring benefit to England.

THE CRISIS: TELEGRAMS.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS.]

SHANGHAI, 16th June, 5.57 p.m.

Yuan Shikai's mother died yesterday. It is earnestly hoped that the usual retirement for mourning will be prevented, as otherwise certain calamity awaits Shantung, in the absence of Yuan Shikai.

SHANGHAI, 18th June, 7 p.m.

A military graduate named Tien Lo-siang has collected a large force of Boxers and disbanded soldiers in South-west Chihli and defeated the Imperialist troops in several conflicts. The movement threatens to spread to Shantung.

SHANGHAI, 19th June, 7.23 p.m.

An Imperial Decree orders Yuan Shikai to retire to the yamen at Chinanfu for one hundred days. Meanwhile the Treasurer of the province is appointed Acting Governor. He is ordered, however, to consult Yuan Shikai on all important matters.

SHANGHAI, 20th June, 7.40 p.m.

Reliable reports state that General Tung Fuhsiang is collecting resources and veteran troops, intending to start a serious rebellion.

A THREATENED COOLIES' STRIKE.

We understand that certain companies and firms here, as a short time ago we suggested was likely, are having trouble with their coolie labourers, who threaten to strike if the sick from plague amongst them are removed to a plague hospital and not allowed to leave for their own homes. Without entering here upon the merits of the question whether plague-stricken Chinese should or should not be allowed to leave the Colony, we must accept the existing situation, which is, we hear, that the Secretary of State for the Colonies will not permit the removal of plague-stricken Chinese from the Colony even to China. The problem then is, what is to be done to deal with the coolie labourers in order to bring them to reason. By their attitude, these coolies are in effect threatening the Government and putting pressure on their employers to try to coerce Mr. Chamberlain to alter his decision. In fact, the coolies wish to demonstrate that they hold the upper hand and will not submit to a regulation which they resent. In this state of affairs, it would seem to be the paramount duty of all Europeans to unite to teach these refractory coolies that it is their duty to obey the regulation, whilst using lawful means to obtain its rescission. And it is undoubtedly the duty of the Government to co-operate with the European community to inculcate in these labourers the virtue and necessity of submission. Many years ago, a strike of cargo-boatmen occurred, occasioned by some such regulation as one requiring them to be photographed. So far as we remember, it was not every firm that came out of that crisis with flying colours. A salutary sentence passed at the Magistracy on an intimidator caught red-handed and the march of an armed squad of the Northampton, headed by the Magistrate with the Riot Act handy, through the western portion of the city, soon brought the strikers to their knees. Those cargo-boatmen objected to a regulation and struck work; to-day, other classes of labourers object to a regulation and strike work. Amongst these are sure to be found some who are willing to work but for fear of their *fokis*. A simple

plan to thwart the majority is to obtain military aid to protect those who are willing to work, to let those willing to work know that they will be protected, and to hale before the Magistrate any person who threatens, a *foki* who is willing to work. Other remedies which suggest themselves are the wholesale banishment for five years of recalcitrant coolies, who are a distinct menace to the peace and good order of the Colony, and the promulgation of certain portions of an Ordinance which is commonly known as the Peace Preservation Ordinance. Even if it promised success to agitate for a revocation of Mr. Chamberlain's decision, it is doubtful whether or not it is politic to do so when Chinese coolies snap their fingers at the existing regulation and say "if you don't revoke it, we won't work." Our task is first to subdue the coolies and then proceed, if necessary, to obtain a revocation of the decision. Any other course at present would be a victory for the coolies, and we cannot afford to give them such a victory, for, having gained their inch, they will demand the proverbial ell. The commercial community must ponder well the situation. Our advice is that a stand, even at a financial loss, should be taken. We warrant that, with the co-operation of the law and of the military, the coolies will come to their senses in a very few days. To attain this most desirable end and to withstand the arrogance of the Chinese coolie, it is absolutely necessary to be resolute, that all companies and firms should be of our mind and that the Government should be co-workers in this struggle with a useful but misguided section of the population.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At the Monthly Meeting of the General Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, held at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, the 11th June, 1901—Present: Sir Thomas Jackson (Chairman), Mr. C. S. Sharp (Vice-Chairman), Messrs. A. Haupt, W. Poate, R. L. Richardson, H. A. Ritchie, N. A. Siebs, H. E. Tomkins, Hon. J. Thurburn (*ex officio*), and R. C. Wilcox (Secretary).—

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous Monthly Meeting (held 16th May) were read and confirmed.

THE GENERAL COMMITTEE.

Read letter from Hon. J. J. Keswick addressed to the Secretary tendering his resignation as a member of the Committee, as he was leaving the Colony, and expressing his good wishes for the continued usefulness of the Chamber.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that Mr. J. J. Bell Irving be invited to accept the vacant seat.

The VICE-CHAIRMAN seconded.

Carried unanimously.

NEW MEMBER OF THE CHAMBER.

The SECRETARY reported that Messrs. E. Pabney & Co. had been elected to membership of the Chamber since the last monthly meeting.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF PASSENGERS.

A letter having been received on the 18th May, from the Superintendent of the P. & O. S. N. Co., calling attention to the pressing need for improvement in the manner in which the medical inspection of shipping visiting this harbour is carried out, making suggestions for its improvement, and asking the Chamber to make representations on the subject to H.E. the Governor.

This letter was submitted to all the shipping firms and agencies, and, their unanimous endorsement and approval having been obtained.

A letter was drafted, and, on the 1st June, was forwarded to the Government, together with copy of Mr. Ritchie's communication.

Read letter from the Government in reply to above dated 7th June, stating that H. E. the Governor fully realises the importance of the subject and proposes to amend the quarantine regulations as suggested.

The CHAIRMAN said he thought that was very satisfactory so far.

PROHIBITION OF CHINESE IMMIGRATION FROM HONGKONG INTO STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

The SECRETARY reported receipt of letter from Government, dated 28th May, enclosing copy of telegram from Colonial Secretary, Singapore, of same date, as follows:—"Chinese coolie immigration prohibited by vessels sailing from Hongkong after 29th May." Copies of same were supplied to the local Press.

On the 3rd June a letter was received, signed by the Shipping Firms and Agencies affected thereby, requesting the Chamber to represent to the Government the hardship entailed upon them by this prohibition, which was opposed to the Venice Convention, and begging that the matter be referred to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, with a view to obtain the speedy cancellation of the prohibition on immigration.

A letter was accordingly, on the 6th June, addressed to the local Government to that effect, and a copy of the letter from the Shipping Firms was enclosed therein.

THE SANITATION OF THE COLONY.

Consequent upon a suggestion made by Mr. W. Poate, on the 31st May, after consideration, The Committee decided to make a representation to the Government calling attention to the serious damage being done to the trade of the Colony by the present serious epidemic of plague and the necessity for taking every available means to restrict the ravages of the disease and to improve the sanitation of the port, and

A letter was accordingly, on the 7th June, addressed to the Acting Colonial Secretary on the subject.

The CHAIRMAN said no reply had, as yet, been received to their letter. As they were aware, he himself had not been in favour of the Chamber taking up this question, as he had a holy horror of its interfering in any way in local politics. However, he was alone in this opinion: the rest of the Committee were unanimous on the point (the Hon. Mr. Thurburn, being only an *ex officio* member, abstained from giving an opinion); and he could only say that the letter had been most carefully drafted, and was most moderately expressed. He quite agreed with its terms; the only point of difference between himself and the Committee being that he thought the representation would have come better from the ratepayers.

Mr. RITCHIE said he thought the matter was decidedly one for the Chamber to take up, as the sanitation of the port greatly affected the shipping. Other members coincided with Mr. Ritchie's opinion.

In response to the CHAIRMAN.

Hon. J. THURBURN expressed the opinion that the Chamber was going out of its province to intervene in municipal matters, but the letter had gone in, and it was no use now to express his views.

The CHAIRMAN—Yes, it has gone in, and it cannot do any harm, and we hope it will be productive of much good.

THE CHINESE TARIFF QUESTION.

Read letter received, on 5th June, from the London Chamber of Commerce, dated 3rd May, acknowledging receipt of the Chamber's telegram of that date, on the proposal to double the Chinese Tariff without provision being made for the redress of taxation and other mercantile grievances, and forwarding copy of covering letter to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to whom it was promptly transmitted.

Much satisfaction was felt at the promptitude shown by the Secretary of the London Chamber in the matter.

The CHAIRMAN said there was nothing further to say on the question just now. The Foreign Ministers had, he heard, decided to make the 5 per cent. tariff effective, and the Chinese Government had undertaken to pay an indemnity of Tls. 450,000,000. The details of the security were now being discussed.

QUARANTINE.

With regard to this subject, the SECRETARY stated that letters were received from the Government, on the 25th May, transmitting copy of telegram from H.B.M.'s Consul-General, Bangkok, announcing that vessels from Hongkong should call at Koh Phai for quarantine;

and, on the 31st idem, enclosing copy of despatch from H.B.M.'s Consul at Swatow, intimating that that port had been declared by the Shanghai Authorities to be infected with plague. Receipt of both letters had been duly acknowledged, and the local Press notified of the facts.

AMERICAN TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION WITH FAR EAST.

The CHAIRMAN said it had come to his knowledge that the Government of the United States intended laying a cable line from America to the Philippine Islands, which no doubt would be extended to Hongkong. The effect of this would be to lower the present excessive telegraphic rates.

The members of the Committee hailed with satisfaction the prospect of having in the near future reasonable telegraphic rates.

This was all the business of public interest before the meeting.

The following is the correspondence read:—

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF PASSENGERS.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong, 1st June, 1901.

SIR,

In July, 1897, this Chamber, in response to a request by the Government for its opinion on the subject of the medical inspection of shipping entering the waters of this Colony, made the suggestions that, in view of the steady increase of the tonnage in this port, it was becoming necessary for the Health Officer to give undivided attention to his shipping duties, adding that, whenever the post should fall vacant, its next occupant should not be allowed to engage in private practice.

Since those suggestions were thrown out, and in spite of the fact that the trade of the port has continued to increase, while the recurring outbreaks of plague in various ports have added greatly to the work of the Health Officer, no further assistance has been allotted to that official, with the result that steamers are not infrequently detained through his inability to board them promptly on arrival. The annoyance to passengers and the loss to ship-owners consequent on these detentions have been growing more and more pronounced; and in illustration thereof I am instructed to forward, for the information of the Government, the enclosed copy of a letter recently received from the Superintendent of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company on the subject.

This letter has been submitted by the Chamber to all the Shipping Firms and Steamship Agencies in the port, who unanimously concur in the suggestions made therein as promising temporary relief pending the appointment of a second or assistant Health Officer.

There is ample work for two doctors in this department. The tonnage of the port has doubled within the last twenty years, as will be seen by the following figures, taken from the Harbour Master's annual returns of the shipping trade of the Colony:—

	1880, tons.	1899, tons.
Vessels entered...	4,185,845	9,052,501
Vessels cleared ..	4,174,149	9,048,808
	8,359,994	18,101,309

Yet the machinery for medically inspecting the shipping remains on the same scale now as it was in 1880, and the expenditure on the Department is practically, allowing for advance in prices, unaltered. In the opinion of the Committee there should be two Medical Officers permanently employed, and giving the whole of their time to the work, unless perhaps the right of private practice among the shipping be conceded to them.

Since, however, the medical staff of the Government is now already much undermanned and the exigencies of the public health demand the exercise of all their energies, the Committee agree with Mr. Ritchie that temporary measures might be adopted for the moment. They strongly endorse his suggestion that the master of any vessel carrying a duly qualified surgeon, provided such master is prepared to sign a certificate (countersigned by the surgeon) if required, that there is no sickness of an infectious nature on board, should thereupon be permitted to proceed to his berth or moorings. This would materially help, under present

circumstances, to prevent much unnecessary delay and consequent loss to the shipping.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

R. CHATTEERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

The Acting Colonial Secretary.

(Enclosure.)

Peninsular and Oriental S. N. Co.
17th May, 1901.

DEAR SIR,

I beg to draw the attention of the Chamber to the pressing need there is for improvement in the manner in which the medical inspection of shipping-visiting this harbour is carried out, in the hope that the Committee will urge on His Excellency the Governor the necessity which exists for the revision of a system which is entirely inadequate for the present-day requirements of this important centre of commerce.

The main defect in the system is the fact that, notwithstanding Hongkong has attained the distinction of ranking as the third port in the World in point of tonnage, the duties of Boarding Medical Officer still remain in the hands of a private practitioner. I am as anxious of disclaiming any intention of casting a reflection on the present incumbent as the Secretary of the Chamber was in his letter to the Colonial Secretary, dated 19th July, 1887, pointing out how necessary it was for the Boarding Health Officer to give undivided attention to the shipping duties, a necessity which increases with the growth of the port, but the disadvantages of the present arrangement are manifest. A Medical Inspecting Officer with private practice, however conscientiously he endeavours to perform his duties, must at times neglect either his private patients or his harbour work.

During the time quarantine was recently imposed on arrivals from Singapore, there were several instances of avoidable and wholly unnecessary detention to mail and other steamers and their passengers through the failure of the Medical Inspecting Officer to board the vessels on anchoring in the quarantine ground. The Government, realising that the delivery of Mails was liable to delay from this cause, notified the Agents of the Mail Lines that the Mails and the Post Office Officials, who take charge of the Mails from Singapore, were to be allowed to land before arrival of the Health Officer, provided the Medical Officer of the steamer certified that the latter were well and free from infectious disease.

The cases of the Royal Mail steamers *Coromandel* and *Ballaarat* illustrate very forcibly the evils and possibly very serious consequences caused to Mail steamers at this port of call, where every hour is precious, through delay on the part of the Boarding Health Officer in attending to his duties.

The *Coromandel* with the outward Mail, passed Gap Rock at 4.16 a.m. on April 13th, showing Mail signal-lights, which were duly acknowledged. At 7.18 a.m. the vessel anchored in quarantine ground with the yellow flag flying, as there was a case of suspected chicken-pox, which is both contagious and infectious, on board. Not until 10.6 a.m. did the Health Officer board the *Coromandel*. As the Health Officer was doubtful whether the case, which was landed and sent to the Civil Hospital, might not prove to be small-pox, he insisted on all passengers being vaccinated before disembarkation, much to their dissatisfaction. After diagnosis at the Hospital the case was declared to be *impetigo contagiosa* (a form of ring-worm), and at 2.30 p.m. the *Coromandel* was granted pratique, but it was not until 5 p.m. that she was able to commence discharge at the wharves. By dint of working all through the night the vessel succeeded in completing her discharge and continuing her voyage at 3.10 p.m. on Sunday, April 14th. The limit of time according to Mail Contract for arrival of the Mails at Shanghai was 2 p.m. on Wednesday 17th April. The *Coromandel* fortunately was favoured with fine weather and succeeded in saving her time, but had she encountered fog it would have been impossible to have done this, and the Company would have been liable to a fine of £500, and, what is a matter of more serious moment to them, their reputation for punctuality in the

delivery of His Majesty's Mails would have been impaired. Had the Health Officer boarded the *Coromandel* immediately on anchoring and granted pratique she should have been alongside the wharf by 10 a.m., and could have proceeded at daylight on the following day, working up to midnight only. There were 13 passengers for the *Coptic*, sailing at noon on the 13th April, several of whom were unable to proceed owing to the detention, and a Military Officer for Tientsin missed his passage per transport *Formosa*, which sailed in the afternoon.

The case of the *Ballaarat* is as follows:—The vessel's signals were answered from Gap Rock Station at 5 a.m. on the 26th April, and she anchored in the quarantine ground at 7.25 a.m., but was not visited by the Health Officer until 8.35 a.m. The *Ballaarat* had a mild case of small pox on board, a native fireman who had been taken sick before the vessel arrived at Colombo, and was, I am informed, convalescent. This man was landed into hospital and the vessel was not granted pratique until 5.40 p.m., giving her barely time to berth alongside the wharves in daylight.

This letter is not written with the object of criticising the Health Officer's methods in dealing with a vessel when in quarantine, but to demonstrate how absolutely necessary it is that the Health Officer should give his undivided attention to his shipping duties.

Whether an official Boarding Health Officer be appointed or whether the duties remain in the present hands, it would, I submit, be desirable to give larger powers to the Masters of vessels carrying qualified surgeons; otherwise, to carry out the duties efficiently, a staff of boarding officers would be required.

Dr. Clarke, the Medical Officer of Health advocated this himself in his Report on the Health of the Colony for the year 1897, as the following extract from the Quarantine Regulations proposed by him in the Report will show:—"And provided also that the Boarding Medical Officer may, in his discretion, omit such general medical inspection of the passengers and crew and of all other persons on board, upon the production of a certificate in the form set forth in the schedule attached hereto, duly signed by the master of the vessel and countersigned by the surgeon to the effect that there has been no case of sickness of an infectious nature during the voyage, and that the said surgeon has seen every person on board during the twelve hours immediately preceding the visit of the Boarding Medical Officer and is satisfied that they are all in good health."

In allusion to this, Dr. Clarke pointed out "that all the Mail steamers, including P. & O., O. & O., N.P., C.P.R., M.M., N.D.L., and the Holt, Shire, Glen and probably other Lines carry surgeons. It will be seen that not many of the 13 steamers which enter this port daily will need a very prolonged visit from the Boarding Medical Officer."

As already stated in this letter, the Mail Sorters, who in times of epidemic in Singapore would not improbably reside in an infected quarter during their stay there, are allowed to leave the vessel before she is boarded by the Health Officer, provided the ship's surgeon certifies they are free from infectious disease, and in accordance with Dr. Clarke's recommendation, I would suggest that this power be extended, and, provided the master of a vessel arriving from an infected port is prepared to sign a certificate, countersigned by the surgeon, that there is no sickness of an infectious nature amongst the crew or the passengers, the vessel should be allowed to proceed direct to the wharves, or to her moorings, where the certificate could be handed to the Boarding Health Officer, or perhaps to the Harbour Police.

In the case of a vessel arriving with infectious disease on board, I would beg to recommend for consideration the suggestion that arrangements should be made for telegraphing the fact from Gap Rock from the South and Waglan from the North. This could be done by a simple code of signals arranged from the Mercantile Code flags. On passing the signal station the vessel would fly a flag, under the yellow flag, denoting a letter which would signify that, say a suspected case of small-pox or plague was on board, as the case might be, and the Health Officer would then know exactly how to act, taking lymph with him, if required. In such cases the

Government should insist that the Health Officer must visit the vessel immediately on anchoring.

I had originally intended to ask the representatives of the various Lines concerned to co-operate with me in a joint appeal, but have been unfortunately prevented from doing so by pressure of work, and fully realising, as I do, the importance of quick despatch to Mail steamers and other vessels and that no avoidable or unnecessary delay should be incurred when passing through this port, especially at this time of the year when fogs are so prevalent on the China Coast, I considered the purpose would be served more expeditiously and as effectually by placing the matter before the Committee of the Chamber, on which shipping interests are so prominently represented, and begging them to represent to the Government the necessity which exists for placing the medical inspection of shipping in this harbour on a more satisfactory footing without delay.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

H. A. RITCHIE,
Superintendent.

R. C. WILCOX, Esq.,

Secretary,

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

PROHIBITION OF CHINESE IMMIGRATION. Hongkong, 3rd June, 1901.

SIR,

We solicit the good offices of the Chamber of Commerce in representing to the local Government the hardship entailed upon all engaged in the trade by the prohibition of immigration of Chinese to the Straits as notified in the local Press of the 29th ultimo. Not only is such a drastic measure opposed to the Venice Convention, but it is difficult to understand what good can possibly be expected from it. The accepted theory that persons suffering from plague show unmistakable signs of the disease within ten days of its inception led to the regulation that steamers arriving at Singapore from Hongkong within that period should be detained in quarantine until the ten days had elapsed from the commencement of the voyage, and an examination of passengers before allowing them to land in Singapore would consequently seem to be sufficient safeguard against the introduction of the pest. All native passengers have to be passed by the Health Officer of the port before steamers leave the waters of this colony.

Last year, we are informed, immigration from India was similarly prohibited by the Straits Government, but representations to the Secretary of State for India that it was contrary to the Venice Convention resulted in the restrictions being removed; and we suggest that in the same way the Government here be asked to at once represent the matter to the Secretary of State for the Colonies with a view to the speedy cancellation of the existing prohibition against Hongkong.

We are, Sir,

Your obedient servants,

DAVID SASSOON, Sons, & Co.,

Agents Apar Line of Steamers.

H. A. RITCHIE,

Superintendent P. & O. S. N. Co.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,

General Managers, Indo-China

S. N. Co., Limited.

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,

Ocean S. S. Co.

Agents { China Navigation Co.

{ N. E. L. Orient Line.

{ Taikoo Sugar Refy.

BRADLEY & Co.,

Agents Shan Steamers.

MELCHERS & Co.

Agents Nordd. Lloyd.

" East Asiatic Co.

The SECRETARY.

Chamber of Commerce

Hongkong.

Hongkong, General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 6th June, 1901.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit, for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor, copy of a letter addressed to this Chamber by the Shipping Firms and Agencies interested

in the passenger traffic between this port and the ports of the Straits Settlements.

In forwarding this communication, I am directed by the Committee to express their concurrence with the views set forth therein as to the unnecessary interference with trade involved in the action of the Government of the Straits Settlements by prohibiting Chinese immigration into their ports.

There would appear to be no warrant for such a drastic measure in the Venice Convention, and nothing is to be gained by throwing new impediments in the way of this traffic. If quarantine is imposed, that will involve the detention of the steamers for several days, sufficient time to ensure that the immigrants have not the germs of plague in them, which should be ample precaution against the introduction of the disease into the Settlements.

I am, therefore, instructed to beg that His Excellency the Governor will be good enough to represent the circumstances to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, with a view to securing the withdrawal of this prohibition against the admission of Chinese immigrants into the Straits Settlements.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,
R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

Hon. Acting COLONIAL SECRETARY.

THE SANITATION OF THE COL. NY.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 7th June, 1901.

SIR,

The present severe epidemic of Bubonic Plague, which seems now to have become an annual visitation, presents so serious a menace to the general prosperity of this port and Colony, that in the interests of trade my Committee deem it their duty to make such representations to the Government as they trust may lead to the adoption of every measure practicable calculated to limit the spread of this disease.

I am therefore directed to point out that although it is now seven years since the disease first appeared in a fatally epidemic form, and notwithstanding all the experience gained, alike of its fatal character and rapid spread and of a serious dislocation of business and special loss to the shipping trade, the authorities are now practically as helpless in its presence as they were in the memorable year 1894. The numbers of cases, now as then, are little in excess of the numbers of deaths; the exodus of the Chinese has, now as then, commenced to be on a formidable scale; and the virulence of the pest seems now to be even more marked than in 1894.

It is unfortunately true that medical science has not yet discovered any means of successfully grappling with the plague, but that fact should not stand in the way of measures being taken to arrest its spread, or of the adoption of such precautions in the handling of the sick, the cleansing of drains and houses, and the inspection of slums, as might tend to curtail the ravages of this scourge within certain limits.

The loss sustained by the suspension of emigration, the imposition of quarantine at neighbouring ports on arrivals from Hongkong, the reduction in imports and exports, and the diversion and restriction of trade generally, constitute a serious drain upon the commercial community, the more disquieting since it threatens to be of annual recurrence.

The Committee are loth to intervene in any matters even apparently outside the domain of trade, but this question is so intimately bound up with the welfare of this great port that they feel it would be a grave omission did they fail to point out how, in their opinion, the Government have made themselves largely responsible for the sad state of things prevailing.

If this were not matter of notoriety, it would only be necessary to refer to the speech of the Medical Officer of Health on the drainage system at the last meeting of the Sanitary Board, when proposing the following resolution:—

"That the Board recommend the Government to utilise all the fresh water which now runs to waste in the trained and untrained nullahs of the city by building dams and forming tanks for the automatic flushing of the sewers and storm-water drains."

Dr. Clark then enumerated a number of recommendations made by Mr. Osbert Chadwick in 1882, all of which were necessary, but few of which had, up to the present moment, been carried into effect, while in most instances they had been simply ignored.

Thus, with regard to the separate system of drainage, most unhappily introduced into the colony, one of Mr. Chadwick's recommendations was that flushing tanks for sewers to be filled by the flow in the nullahs should be erected. The Committee, while opposed to the separate system as eminently unsuited to the circumstances of the colony, recognise that, if the system has to be endured, its evils will clearly be mitigated by provision being made through the frequent and copious flushing of the sewers, and they regret that this obvious fact was not also long since recognised by the Government.

Other recommendations made by Mr. Chadwick were—(1) The formation of continuous back alleys; (2) the provision of 600 cubic feet of space per head in all rooms sub-divided by cubicles; (3) the formation of a fund to carry out large sanitary schemes; (4) the construction of all roads and drains prior to the sale of the building lots; (5) the acquisition by Government of all existing public latrines, their reconstruction, and the provision of more; (6) the abatement of the nuisance caused by hawkers squatting in the public streets; (7) the increase of the market accommodation; and (8) the provision of public bath-houses with a good supply of water, (which last suggestion the Committee note with satisfaction is now being acted upon with good results.) The report in which the foregoing recommendations were embodied concluded with the following remarks, which, in the light of subsequent events, were most prophetic:—"I trust that even should the suggestions be found undesirable or impracticable, my report will show the necessity for strong and complete measures of sanitation, and I trust that they will be undertaken for the immediate benefit of the public health without waiting for the necessity to be demonstrated by the irresistible logic of a severe epidemic."

As Dr. Clark truly remarks:—"The logic came twelve years later, when the necessity for these reforms was demonstrated by an outbreak of bubonic plague in epidemic form. Almost all these matters are crying needs in Hongkong nineteen years after this report was written."

In the opinion of the Committee, the colony possesses in the Medical Officer of Health a valuable and energetic officer, whose untiring efforts to promote the sanitation of the city merit every encouragement; whereas, his recommendations, like those of Mr. Chadwick, have been frequently ignored, shelved, or pared down when adopted.

My Committee desire to draw attention to the folly of allowing the prejudices of officials, the fear of expense, or the dread of unofficial opposition to stand in the way of the execution of sanitary measures which are known to be necessary and which have been insisted upon time after time by experts. If any doubt be entertained as to the practicability or expedience or otherwise of such recommendations, no time should be lost in referring them to a higher authority for decision. The time has now arrived when vigorous action should be taken to secure the continuance of the progress of the Colony, and to adequately protect the great commercial interests so adversely affected by these disastrous annual epidemics.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,
R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 13th June, 1901.

SIR,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, and to inform you that His Excellency the Governor joins with the Chamber of Commerce in the regret that here, as in India, the anxious efforts of the Government have failed to control Bubonic Plague, or to materially check its ravages.

As to the various matters on which the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce have been good enough to give their views, they have long been subjects of most anxious

consideration by those whose professional knowledge and experience best fitted them to advise upon them, and some have been dealt with by the Legislative Council. His Excellency would suggest that as the Chamber of Commerce is directly represented in the Council, it should request its representative to bring its views before that body, where the grounds for assumptions which appear to have been somewhat hastily adopted may be clearly stated and fully answered. His Excellency instructs me to add that nothing could more contribute to the commercial losses pointed out in the fourth paragraph of the letter than reckless statements, some untrue, and others greatly exaggerated, that have appeared from time to time in the public Press; and the apparent acceptance of these statements by the members of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, without investigation or adequate knowledge, is not calculated to allay fears that, if continued, may permanently affect the prosperity of this Colony, dependent as it is upon the business incidental to a great shipping port of call. The Governor observes with satisfaction that the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce are prepared to accept cheerfully the increased taxation that will probably be necessary to meet the heavy expenses of contemplated measures for the general improvement of sanitation.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,
T. SERCOMBE SMITH,
Ag. Colonial Secretary.

The SECRETARY,
Chamber of Commerce.

CHINESE TARIFF QUESTION.

London Chamber of Commerce,
Botolph House, Eastcheap,
London, E.C.,
3rd May, 1901.

DEAR SIR,

I beg to acknowledge, with thanks, receipt of your telegram of even date, which has been forwarded to the Chairman of the East India and China Trade Section of this Chamber, by whose instructions a letter (copy enclosed) has to-day been forwarded to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. I trust this will meet with the approval of your Chamber, and remain,

Yours faithfully,
(Sd.) KENRIC B. MURRAY,
Secretary.

Sir THOMAS JACKSON,
Chairman, Hongkong General
Chamber of Commerce.

(Enclosure).

The London Chamber of Commerce,
Botolph House, Eastcheap,
London, E.C.,
3rd May, 1901.

SIR,

I have the honour to append copy of a telegram received from the Chamber of Commerce of Hongkong. It gives the opinion of that important Chamber on a point most seriously affecting the commercial interests of this country in China, and the China Trade Section of the London Chamber recognising the magnitude of the trade of Great Britain as compared with that of other nations with China, beg that the subject may receive the attention to which its vast importance entitles it.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,
KENRIC B. MURRAY,
Secretary.

The Under Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs,
Foreign Office, Whitehall, S.W.

(Copy of Telegram)

3rd May, 1901.

Referring Chinese Indemnity it is proposed by certain Powers to raise guaranteed loan secured by doubling tariff. This Chamber most earnestly submit Government should on no account agree any increase existing tariff unless accompanied by substantial redress grievances connected *lekin* and other internal taxation and satisfactory settlement question inland waters navigation.

T. JACKSON,
Chairman, Hongkong Chamber Commerce.

THE PLAGUE.

Monday, 17th June.

During the 24 hours ending at noon on Saturday there were reported 21 fresh cases (18 Chinese, one other Asiatic, and two Europeans), and 25 deaths (20 Chinese, 4 other Asiatics, and one European). The year's figures are now:—1,268 cases, 1,202 deaths.

We regret to state that Mrs. Herbst is dead. The deceased lady and one of her daughters were taken to Kennedy Town from their house, 14, Queen's Road Central, on Friday afternoon, (these being the two cases reported above). First reports regarding their condition were favourable, and on Saturday the hospital authorities stated that their progress was satisfactory. Mrs. Herbst, however, appears to have had a relapse, and gradually sank. She died early yesterday morning. The deceased lady was the wife of Mr. E. Herbst, of the firm of Heuermann and Herbst, shipchangers, sail-makers, etc., 14, Queen's Road Central. The flag at the German Club was yesterday flown at half-mast in respect to her memory. Miss Herbst is said to be doing well.

It was Mr. Brownhill, and not Mrs. Brownhill (as we stated from information received on Friday night), who succumbed to the plague that evening. The funeral took place on Saturday afternoon at Happy Valley, the remains of the deceased gentleman being laid beside those of his first wife, the present Mrs. Brownhill's sister. Mr. Brownhill was a Fifehire man, and had been in the Far East for many years. As we have already stated, Mr. and Mrs. Brownhill were on the eve of departing for home on an extended holiday, and had booked their passages by the German mail which left last Thursday, the day following their removal to Kennedy Town Hospital.

Mrs. Brownhill, we are glad to be able to state is decidedly better. The news of her husband's death will doubtless be kept from her until she is in a condition to bear the shock.

Miss Cecilia Almario, the Portuguese girl who was removed from 7, Ezra Lane on Thursday night, in a comatose condition, never regained consciousness, and died on Friday afternoon. Mrs. J. Levy (16), died early on Saturday morning.

During the past week 25 European residents have been inoculated as a protection against the epidemic, including several well-known members of the British community.

Tuesday.

During the 48 hours ending at noon on Monday there were reported 59 fresh cases of plague (54 Chinese, 3 other Asiatics, and 2 Europeans) and 51 deaths (48 Chinese, 1 other Asiatic, and 2 Europeans). Last week's figures were:—151 cases and 151 deaths, a slight decrease from the previous week's 161 cases and 155 deaths.

The death of another European from plague was rumoured in town on Sunday. The rumour now turns out to be fact, the victim being Mr. Ernest Karl Thoenert, manager of the China Export, Import, and Bank Company, 10, Des Voeux Road Central. The deceased resided on the premises of the company for two and a half years. He was sick for nine days with fever, and this ultimately developed into intestinal plague, to which he succumbed on Sunday afternoon. Typhoid fever was at first rumoured to be the cause of death, but this was disproved by a post-mortem examination held at the public mortuary, whither the body was removed. The deceased, who was attended by two German doctors, was an athlete and a splendid oarsman, and had taken part in several international rowing contests here. The funeral took place yesterday afternoon at Happy Valley, and was attended by many friends of the deceased.

The first case of a soldier being seized with the disease during the present epidemic was reported yesterday. The patient is a sapper in the Engineers, Lambert by name. He is 24 years of age, and was stationed at Wellington Barracks. Lambert, who has been removed to Kennedytown Plague Hospital, has only been a short time in the colony, having arrived a few weeks ago with a relief detachment of Engineers.

Miss Herbst, Mrs. Brownhill, and Mrs. Willoughby are making satisfactory progress. The other Europeans still continue to do well.

Victor Cruz, a Portuguese residing at 40, Bridges Street, and a Chilean from Wanchai named Mari (address unknown) were among the admissions to the hospital during the 24 hours ended at noon yesterday.

These returns also include an Indian watchman from the Taikoo Sugar Refinery and a Japanese from 70, Wellington Street.

An Indian woman from McGregor Street succumbed to plague yesterday morning.

Two Indian patients have been discharged from hospital cured. One is a watchman at Taikoo Sugar Refinery and the other a military dhoolie bearer from Kowloon.

A dead rat was found yesterday morning in a room on the basement floor at Government House. H. E. the Governor has requested the sanitary authorities to disinfect at once all the rooms in the basement.

At the Supreme Court yesterday afternoon Mr. Grist called the attention of his Honour A. G. Wise, Puisne Judge, to the condition of the court-room, and suggested that the carpets should be taken up, as they only served to harbour plague germs. His Honour remarked that it was unfair to expect too much, in view of what already had been done to the court-room. Only the other day, for the first time in its history, the court had been thoroughly swept and washed out. He would suggest, however, that the carpets be taken up.

Wednesday.

During the 24 hours ending at noon yesterday there were reported 25 fresh cases of plague (24 Chinese, one other Asiatic), with 30 deaths (27 Chinese, 2 other Asiatics, one European).

Sapper Lambert and a Portuguese named Da Cruz, of Bridges Street, who were admitted into the Kennedy Town Hospital on Monday morning, succumbed to the disease during the course of the day.

The Japanese boy residing on Pottinger Street, who was admitted into the hospital three days ago, died yesterday morning.

All the European patients under treatment are progressing favourably.

Thursday.

During the 24 hours ending at noon yesterday there were reported 14 fresh cases of plague (13 Chinese, one other Asiatic) and 13 deaths (all Chinese).

One Indian engaged at Quarry Bay died on Tuesday evening.

Friday.

During the 24 hours ending at noon yesterday there were reported 21 fresh cases of plague (20 Chinese, one other Asiatic), and 18 deaths (17 Chinese), one other Asiatic.

Since our last report, one Portuguese, Bartholomew Balara of No. 42, Aberdeen Street, and an Indian named Rasull, of Quarry Bay, were admitted into the Plague Hospital.

All Europeans under treatment are doing well.

The disinfection of all houses in sanitary district No. 5 commences this morning at eight o'clock. This district extends from Graham Street to Shing Wong Street. It is doubtful whether this process of wholesale disinfection will of itself have any material effect in the lessening of plague, from the fact that householders were notified a week ago in the Chinese newspapers of the intentions of the sanitary authorities to disinfect the houses. Since then tenants have been engaged night and morning in removing their furniture to the houses of friends in other parts of the city. When their own dwellings have been disinfected this furniture, in all its pristine filth, will be carried back and replaced.

The search for the wreck of the Japanese training-ship *Tsukishima Maru*, which was lost in November last while on a voyage from Hakodate to Shimidzu, has been given up. It was generally believed that the vessel went down somewhere in the Gulf of Suruga, and the authorities of the school have been prosecuting a search there ever since news of the disaster reached Tokyo. Now, however, the authorities have come to the conclusion that the wreck is not in the gulf and have therefore abandoned the search. The total amount expended in the search is 20,000 yen approximately.

COLLAPSE OF A HOUSE.

THREE MEN KILLED.

On Saturday, on the 15th inst., at about 4 p.m., a collapse took place at a block of eight houses undergoing reconstruction in High Street, three men being killed and two injured—one, it is believed, seriously. The building is owned by Hop Yik, contractor, Wyndham Street, and was having an extra storey added. First accounts of the disaster are vague, but from what has been gathered it appears that the party-wall supporting Nos. 45 and 47 suddenly gave way and fell inwards down to the basement floor. Three carpenters and two masons who were employed on the reconstruction work were carried with the falling masonry and buried in the debris. The crash and the cries of the excited and alarmed people who witnessed the lamentable accident attracted the notice of several Europeans—among others Mr. A. Denison, architect, Mr. G. C. Hadden, and Mr. A. Sheffield. Nothing definite was known as to how many men were underneath the ruins, but that there were several was felt to be almost certain, and means were at once taken to rescue them. In a short time the two stonemasons were rescued and sent off to Government Civil Hospital in ambulances. A number of police, under the charge of Inspector Baker and Sergeant McHardy, had by this time arrived from No. 7 Police Station and assumed active control of the work of rescue. Their first act was to clear the street of the crowds who stood gazing at the ruined house, this step being rendered advisable by the frail appearance of the adjoining building, which looked as though the work of removing the debris would bring it with a rush to the ground. It was not until after midnight that the body of the first carpenter was recovered, and an hour afterwards the rescue party came upon that of the second. Both were taken to the mortuary. The third body was not unearthed until two o'clock on Sunday afternoon. Judging by the amount of material that covered them, the unfortunate men must have been killed instantaneously. As evidencing the remarkable antipathy felt by the Chinese to entering an hospital, it may be remarked that the two masons who were rescued in an injured condition refused to go into hospital, and were carried back to West Point Police Station. One of them has since complained of internal injuries, and has at his own request been admitted to the Government Civil Hospital. An enquiry into the circumstances attending the disaster commenced yesterday, and was adjourned to next Friday.

INTERESTING RACE ROUND THE WORLD.

ONE COMPETITOR ARRIVES IN HONGKONG.

This is an age of competition. Quite recently a Paris journal conceived the idea of sending a representative—an old experienced traveller—on a journey round the world, by way of ascertaining how quickly the circuit of the globe could be made. Mr. Hurst, of the *San Francisco Examiner*, heard of what the Paris newspaper was doing, and pondered. The result was he came to the conclusion that it would be a good idea for the *Examiner* to embark on a similar project, but to run it on different lines. Mr. Hurst consulted with some friends, and through them made the acquaintance of two youths just from school, eighteen years of age, who had never travelled farther than to take a trip in a river steamer. The proprietor of the *Examiner* talked matters over with them, and when the interview was over it had been decided that the lads were to have a race round the world—a race against each other, and jointly against the Frenchman engaged by the *San Francisco* paper's Paris contemporary. "One of you," said Mr. Hurst, "will go by water, the other overland, and I want to see who gets round the world the sooner. You will each have unlimited money—as much as ever you want, and you may spend it as you please. If you want to charter a steamer, charter it; if you want to hire a railroad, hire it." One of the boys is a New Yorker, the other hails from San Francisco. After leaving Mr. Hurst they returned to their respective homes to await orders. They had been given to understand that they must be

prepared to start on their long journey at a moment's notice, and were therefore continually on the *qui vive* for the message that would set them off. The New York boy, living as he did in the city where the order to start was to be given (it had been arranged that that order should be issued from the office of the New York paper owned by Mr. Hurst) had a better chance of getting to know when he would be wanted, and consequently was able at last to start comfortably for Vancouver, where he was to join the C. P. R. steamer *Empress of India*. The San Francisco boy, on the other hand, got only a few minutes' notice by telegram to catch a certain train for Vancouver, his inability to do which would make the race an impossibility or at least delay its start. However, he joined the *Empress of India* at Vancouver, and stepped on board with nothing but the clothes he stood in. The boys had a good time together as far as to Yokohama, where the New Yorker—who is to travel overland—took train for Nagasaki, whence he goes to Vladivostok and across Siberia either to Moscow or St. Petersburg. The San Francisco boy, who is to circumnavigate the globe, came down to Hongkong on the *Empress of India*, and arrived here on Monday forenoon just in time to catch the French mail for Europe. Only an hour elapsed between his leaving the *Empress* boat and his sailing by the *Natal*. The young traveller goes to Colombo, and there tranships to another French mail boat coming from Australia—a vessel faster than the *Natal*. He goes overland from Brindisi, this bit of overland travelling being allowed, on the ground that it is the recognised passenger route.

As has already been said, the boys are to spare no money in reducing the time for the journey. In one sense, indeed, the race is really a test of what money can do. The progress of the two boys will be watched with interest.

A GERMAN CRITICISM OF THE YANGTZE SITUATION.

The *Ostasiatische Lloyd* of the 14th inst., in an article headed *The German Watch upon the Yangtze*, comments on the remarks made at the annual dinner of the China Association at Shanghai, on Monday, the 10th inst. After saying that it was the British China Association who at all times asserted England's supremacy in the Yangtze Valley, it continues: "It was certainly no mere accident that at this dinner no mention was made of 'British Spheres of Interest' in China. An explanation for this can be found in a lengthy article of the *North-China Daily News*, wherein it is remarked:—'Only after the massacres took place, only after the legations were bombarded, did Sir Claude Macdonald's diplomatic acumen awake to the real danger of the situation, and then it was too late—Russia had taken Manchuria, and Germany not only obtained equal privileges with England in the Yangtze Valley, but also made her prestige and power felt in Peking, while the Americans had obtained dominant influences over the colleges and educational institutes of China.' In the same spirit was Admiral Seymour's speech at the dinner. He said: 'Great Britain has to-day powerful rivals, who will rob her of her valuable trade. One is Russia, who is not a trading nation, but who with her well-known greed for land will try to undermine our commerce. The second is Germany, a rival to be equally feared as a commercial competitor and as a sea-power. Her fleet is growing daily, so is her commercial importance. With Germany England will have to reckon ere long, and she must take care not to forget the fact. A third rival of Great Britain is the United States of America, who in the last few years have made enormous strides in their advance commercially. The Americans will some day prove to be the most dreaded competitors of England.' The *Ostasiatische Lloyd* continues: "In face of this the following words of Admiral Seymour gain added significance:—'England has no desire to cut off any power trading in any part of the world, nor does she wish to gain concession of lands for her own sole benefit.' The writer here pleasantly remarks, 'Remembering Great Britain's action in the past, we need not waste space in discussing the correctness or

otherwise of the statement made. What England's colonial expansion means to the other Powers has long ago been proved, in fact it is a matter of history. Still we have great satisfaction that a man of Admiral Seymour's standing should have spoken as he did, especially at this moment in Shanghai. It will help greatly towards clearing the situation in the Yangtze Valley, and tend to the joint working of England and Germany, and in promoting their respective commercial interests."

With great great self-complacency the writer continues, attempting to put forth the reasons which, as he claims, have induced other Powers, and in particular Great Britain, to assume a vastly different attitude than formerly. He says: "Toward a weak antagonist, Great Britain would never have made the admissions she did. Though the result of the fighting and diplomatic negotiations in the North may not have been as richly productive as one might have expected, there remains no doubt, however, that the energetic action of the German troops in Chihli—and we lay especial stress on this—and the development of Germany as a sea-power on the coast of China and its large rivers, have caused the great alteration in the behaviour of the other Powers towards Germany. Germany who in years gone by was considered a nonentity, whose citizens were charitably permitted to help in the development of the colonies of other nations, stands to-day far from home, with an equal voice in the Concert of Nations. This is the result of the expedition to China, though it has been devoid of securing victories. No rival of Germany, not even England, dares speak to-day of 'the Sphere of Influence' in the Yangtze Valley as being simply British. Germany has gained here now equal rights, which are publicly acknowledged. For this we have to thank, no doubt, largely the great squadron which His Majesty the Emperor sent to Chinese waters, and especially the fact that for months no nation was in a position to send such a large fleet to back its demands and wishes as the German fleet of armour-clads."

The rest of the article calls attention to the fact that it is not sufficient for Germany simply to have obtained this foremost position among the Powers, but that it must be maintained. Therefore the writer continues: "We are glad to know that not only is the present garrison at Shanghai to remain, but that it will be increased. Of course this news will not be greeted with gladness by all," the writer satirically remarks. "But Great Britain, France and Japan consider it necessary to continue their garrisons, and can Germany stand back? Certainly not. She must be ready and armed, she must be able to point to her armed might if she is to take and keep her place among the Council of Nations. To do this, Germany will have to maintain, in those portions of China where she has commercial or political interests to uphold, a large fleet of men-of-war. Therefore we hope that the present strength will not only not be reduced, but again increased, by a large number of the large and also smaller class of gunboats, especially on the Yangtze. Of course our lands forces will give considerable assistance. And we must call it a sign of particular political shrewdness on the part of the German Government that it has taken steps to prevent any closing of the 'Open Door' to the richest and most important part of the Chinese Empire. To do this, and do it satisfactorily, is the arduous and important duty of Germany."

The French loan is a badly mixed-up affair, wrote the Korean correspondent of the *Nagasaki Press* on the 31st ult. I am now told that M. Cazalis in the loan represents the Yunnan Syndicate, a corporation registered in London, three-fifths of the capital of which is held by Britishers, among whom one of the chief is Mr. Pritchard Morgan, honorary Consul-General for Corea at London. So the French have fathered an English loan on Corea and the British are protesting against it. The French Minister has denied the Coreans' request to call it off. His position is that, as the papers have been signed and delivered, the loan must go through. The money will come to Chemulpo, as per stipulations and be landed, and the Korean Government can do what it likes with it. In this, M. de Planey is firm.

ADMIRAL SEYMOUR'S SPEECH AT SHANGHAI.

At the annual dinner of the Shanghai branch of the China Association on the 10th inst., Admiral Sir Edward Seymour, responding to the toast of "The Navy," proposed by Mr. G. J. Morrison, made some interesting remarks on affairs in China. We take the following extract from the *N.C. Daily News* report:—

The great question now, so far as British interests are concerned, is I think, foreign competition. We as Britishers feel we do not want to prevent anybody sharing in the trade of the world. What we do object to, however, is their not doing so in an entirely honest and straightforward manner, and what I personally object to, and I think you agree with me that although they come and trade under our flag and avail themselves of what we have done in preparing China for trade they too seldom show us the proper appreciation for having done so. I must not run away on this topic because everybody in this room knows more about commerce than I do, and very properly, as you might say the cobbler should keep to his last. With regard to the Navy the changes are no doubt very extraordinary. When our most gracious Majesty came to the throne nobody could have foreseen that the finest battleship present at the funeral ceremonies at Spithead would be a Japanese ironclad. I mention this to show the extraordinary changes that have come over the world and what we might therefore expect in the future with reference to the Navy. Every nation is trying now to get a Navy. Our serious rivals in that respect are two or three in number. With regard to rivals in China, one is what is sometimes called our Northern friend, but I think one other rival we have to meet is Germany. Germany is a real rival in trade, and the German navy is a very rising thing, with which we shall have to answer some day, and let no Englishman make a mistake about that. Their trade is now being pushed forward by every possible means, and as long as it is fairly pushed forward, good fortune to it, but some day there will be a very serious state of things with which we shall have to deal. The United States is a third trade rival, and perhaps the most formidable of all. With regard to China itself in the last three and a half years the squadron has been quite doubled in strength. We have now forty-four ships on this station. We are all better equipped and far ahead of any other nation out here, unless we consider the Japanese, whose forces are close at home. Russia has made some advance in numbers, but I think, taking it all round, we may allow that the condition of the British Navy is decidedly satisfactory. The nation never grudges any money asked for it, and I think it is only our duty as sailors to see that they get the best return for it, and I believe we shall do so.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 15th June.

A PLAGUE SCARE.

H.E. the Viceroy Tao Mu has been suffering from a severe cough and laid up for days, and in consequence has memorialised the throne for one month's sick leave to enable him to rest quietly and be attended by his doctors. The wife of his grandson about a fortnight ago died of plague, which alarmed the Viceroy much; his son has left Canton to avoid the plague. A few days ago while he was sitting at a desk reading some official documents a plague-stricken rat, nearly dead, dropped down from the ceiling on his desk, which frightened him more, and in consequence his illness is much aggravated.

THE HONGKONG REFUGERS.

During the prevalence of the bubonic plague, rules for dealing with the plague patients are very strict, and a large number of people have left your colony to avoid them. Some charitably disposed people here have formed a society under the name of the In Son Tong to raise money by subscription. They have hired large boats, and anchored them opposite the big Buddhist temple, Hoi Tong Tsz, at Honam, to receive on board any patients

arriving from Hongkong who are unable to go home. There they will be attended to by doctors and medicine supplied free of charge.

SEIZURE OF CONTRABAND GOODS.

A Chinese steam-launch engaged in passing contraband goods was seized off the Kung Pak Custom House by a Customs cruiser with 17 chests of opium on board. The launch, together with the goods and the smugglers, was taken to Canton the other day, and the case is under investigation. The contraband goods and launch are estimated at the value of over \$30,000.

SETTLEMENT FOR THE ATTACK ON EUROPEANS.

In the case in which the silk inspector, Mr. Burckhardt and others from the firm of Messrs. Carlwiltz & Co., of Canton, were wounded by pirates, and a boatman killed, while they went for a picnic off Sam Yung Kee at Shun Tak, an arrangement for the payment of indemnity has been made by Li Ka-cheuk, a military official in command of the Shun Tak garrison, and the amount proposed is said to be \$13,501, all included.

BRIGAND SOCIETIES.

It was well known that last year there were several brigand chiefs at Sai Chew who collected large number of followers, and formed two societies, under the names of the Lun E Tong and Wo E Tong, to plunder. Of late in consequence of the strict orders issued by the Viceroy to the military authorities to arrest and punish them they have dispersed and hidden themselves. But there is now another new gang of brigands at Fatshan, who have clubbed together under the name of the Shing Wo Tong, and whose chiefs are Leong Choi, Leong Cheung, Leong Tung, Leong Ping, Luk Shik, and Luk Chew. A few days ago they sent letters to the junks that plied between Lung Kong, Tai Leong, Ping-Chow and other places, to demand blackmail. The junks, through fear of their threats, have ceased from plying.

PIRATES AND "BRAVES."

By order of the Viceroy guardboats are anchored at different stations along the Canton river as far as Tung Kun, and Shik Lung to watch for pirates. A few nights ago several small boats manned by pirates went close to one of the guardboats, when they rushed on board, seized and tied up some of the "braves," and took away all their firearms and uniforms, and left. Other braves who pursued them were wounded by shots from the fugitives.

MACAO.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Macao, 17th June.

MACAO v. HONGKONG AS A RESIDENCE.

The distressing state of overcrowding in Hongkong revealed in the Sanitary Board Committee's report a few years ago has been further accentuated each year as Hongkong attracted to its busy centre the Chinese from the mainland. In connection with the subject of affording healthy residence for the white population of Hongkong, within easy reach of the colony, Macao may be advantageously considered. It cannot be doubted that one who has long resided in both places and who has accordingly had an opportunity to judge of the merits and demerits of the two cities might not unreasonably expect that some faith be given his unbiased opinion. The opinion is one that has been forced upon him in favour of the Portuguese settlement. The conformation of the island of Hongkong and the situation of the city of Victoria cannot be favourably compared with the geographical position of the city of Macao. In the latter place the absence of any lofty hills like the Peak on the one side and Kowloon range on the other and its exposed position to the sea, render it far healthier and cooler. Add to this the smallness of its population, the better class of its native tenements, the cleanliness of its roads and public thoroughfares, and a drainage system better suited to its inhabitants, it must at once become apparent that of the two places Macao as a healthier place of habitation must claim the preference.

On economic grounds also it may be worth the while of many to consider seriously whether it may not be to their advantage to make Macao the habitat for their women-folk and children,

leaving the bread-winners to remain at Hongkong. While rents in your port have been systematically increased so as to make them a little less than an extortion from the middle class, it is undeniable that from an hygienic as well as from a moral point of view the quarters now occupied by the veritable "horses of the mill" are in an indirect ratio, as to amelioration, to the exactions forced from them. Since no power will move to check a long admitted evil, it is for the sufferers themselves to devise ways and means to secure the urgently needed reform before any remedial measures are put out of the pale of practicability. That Macao affords the means to such a measure is a conviction that has gradually forced itself upon the minds of those who have given the question serious thought in all its bearings.

THE IMPROVEMENT OF MACAO.

Good building sites can be had here for the mere asking. With the professional instinct of an efficient civil engineer (as the present Governor, H. E. Horta e Costa, is), assisted by a no less talented and energetic official in the person of the director of public works, Mr. A. C. d'Abreu Nunes, the plan (first conceived on the outbreak of plague here in 1896) for the resumption of the insanitary districts and their subsequent improvement has been consistently and energetically carried forward. The result is at once apparent to any casual visitor who might remember the veritable hotbeds of diseases in the insanitary districts of Vo-long and the like. Vo-long has now made way for a faultlessly laid out portion of the city situated just before the approach to and to the left of the Avenida da Vasco da Gama. In part the resumed area has been built on, and a considerable section of the remaining portion was recently put up to public auction, when it was knocked down to the Santa Casa da Misericordia, the premium per square metre being 50 cents and the annual Crown rent 30 cents.

A little beyond are situated the hills of Casilha and the Bella Vista as the eminence overlooking the familiar beach of Area Preta is called. Casilha still retains its primitive simplicity. But the bare hillock opposite and to the left of it as one journeys in the direction of Porta do Cerco is in the process of transformation into the "Montanha Russa," as the circuitous promenade built from the base to the top of the little hill has been named. The hand of the artistic engineer is at once seen in this most useful and beautifying public work. The narrow bridlepath that erstwhile answered for the road across Chinese vegetable-gardens leading from the main thoroughfare to Bella Vista has been widened to a 29-foot road and raised to the level of the same. This road, metalled after the most approved style, is a source of no little pleasure to cyclists, and beyond and to the seaward side of the Montanha Russa a pleasing surprise awaits the pedestrian and cyclist alike. Riding on the road here is like wheeling on a billiard board, so perfectly has the road been cemented over. Its gentle gradient while causing no effort for its ascent affords a delight in its descent. The expanse of the blue sea so pleasing to the eyes and the briny breeze are not the least of the pleasures that reward a walk along this beautiful road.

It is within sight of this lovely place that a suggestion is offered for a residential district for those people of Hongkong who feel the want of a healthy habitation most acutely, not least amongst them being the Macaenses themselves. No better or healthier locality can be found. Granite is found in sufficient quantity and of good quality on the very sites recommended for building. No steep hill-slopes present themselves—like the building sites of Bowen or MacDonnell Roads in Hongkong—and therefore no massive or expensive retaining walls need be built. The estimated cost for preparing sites for a hundred European villa residences is, as far as can be ascertained, not more than \$10,000. The premium for the land is not likely to exceed five cents per square foot and the annual Crown rent is from 30 to 50 cents the square metre. The stringency of the Hongkong building regulations is not enforced here. There are no costly house drainage system and concreting of ground surfaces. Labour is comparatively cheaper. In short, all the elements satisfying the conditions of economic politics exist here.

The idea of utilising the waste land of Macao for profitable building operations has already been taken up in certain quarters among the Chinese magnates of Hongkong. Authentic information is, however, lacking for the rumour that the new gambling farmer is formulating a scheme for the purchase of a large portion of Bella Vista with a view to the erection of semi-detached houses, in American style, for European residents, and in conjunction with this plan a hotel will be built within the same site for visitors. If it is to be a *bona fide* enterprise, may success attend the venture; but if the hotel and its adjuncts be utilised for another Monte Carlo, let their existence be relegated to the limbo of unrealisable projects.

A CAFE CHANTANT.

A Spaniard has applied for and obtained the sanction of government for the opening of a *café chantant*.

THE SANTA CASA BOARD ELECTION.

The much talked of election of the new board of directors of the Santa Casa came off on Saturday last, the 15th inst. To those who have followed with any enthusiasm the articles appearing in your Portuguese contemporary, especially directed against the retiring Provedor, and who were in consequence led into great expectations, the result of Saturday's election must have come as a sore disappointment. At the eleventh hour it seemed patent, as it should have appeared before, to the active canvassers for the overthrow of Mr. Nolasco that the task they had set themselves to put through was not easy of accomplishment. Their real nominee retired to the background, and in order to give the semblance of opposition to an election that would otherwise be robbed of interest, Mr. A. J. Basto was nominally put forward as the contestant against Mr. Nolasco. But to those behind the scenes it was well-known that Mr. Basto never desired the Provedorship to the exclusion of his friend and colleague. His failure (if failure it can be called) when pitted against the tried Provedor was, on this occasion, a foregone conclusion. The result of the election is as follows:—Mr. P. Nolasco da Silva, Provedor (re-elected); Mr. C. D. Axedo, Vice-Provedor; Mr. Albino Pacheco, Secretary; Mr. José Ribeiro, Treasurer (re-elected).

The ballot showed that Mr. C. A. R. d'Assumpcao was the nominated person for the vice-Provedorship. This gentleman did not see his way to accept the honour accorded him in his nomination, alleging ill-health as the reason for the rejection of his seat. There were sixty-six voters present at the meeting. The Provedor was re-elected by 112 votes. That Mr. Nolasco will justify the wisdom of the electors in reinstating him as the helmman in the most important public institution, next after the Senate, of this city, is the confident belief of his supporters.

A DESERVED DECORATION.

The many friends of Mr. Antonio Joaquim Basto will be pleased to know that this gentleman has been recommended for the Order of the Grand Cross De Conceicao. It is the most coveted order in the gift of the Portuguese sovereign to bestow upon any of His Majesty's subjects. Incidentally it may be remarked that no colonial-born, nor indeed any Portuguese colonial governor, has yet been accorded this special mark of royal favour. If Mr. Basto should be signalled out for such rare distinction his continued labours for the good of Macao and his willing assistance—on occasions at the sacrifice of his professional practice—to its successive governors will have amply received their just reward.

One of the most distinguished sinologists of his time, Dr. E. Bretschneider, of St. Petersburg, whose death was announced last month, was an honorary corresponding member of the Royal Geographical Society. It was while fulfilling his duties as physician to the Russian Legation in Peking that he devoted himself to the investigation of Chinese archaeology, history, language, geography, &c. One of his most recent works was the *History of European Botanical Discoveries in China*, and he had also written learnedly on the knowledge possessed by the ancient Chinese of the Arabs and Arabian Colonies, on Chinese medieval travellers to the West, and on archaeological and historical researches in Peking and the neighbourhood.

MANILA.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Manila, 9th June.

THE DECISION OF THE SUPREME COURT.

The cabled information concerning the decision of the Supreme Court in the much agitated question of the constitution following the flag, came like thunder out of a clear sky. The first intimation was received last Thursday, and was addressed to the Civil Commission. As it happened the Commission was spending the day in the town of Pasig, discussing provincial government with the delegates from Manila and Morong provinces, but a special launch was sent up the river to deliver the communication without delay. This cable was from the War Department at Washington, but it was so indefinite that it only served as an intimation of the actual facts and opened wide the field of speculation. The next day some of the business houses heard from their American agents, and the impression rapidly gained ground that under the decision of the court they would soon have all their customs duties returned to them. Many of the firms have been paying duties under protest, anticipating a favourable ruling of the Supreme Court in the Porto Rico case and expecting that the same ruling would extend to the Philippines. If this should come to pass many of the Manila houses would be made very wealthy. The liquor and provision men would especially be benefited, as such firms as the American Commercial Company and the Pacific Oriental Trading Company have paid out thousands upon thousands of duty, which of course they have not lost, as they, like all other business men, have made the public pay the duty in the long run. To refund the duties would be to make a simple clear gift to them.

The city was full of these legitimate speculations and numerous others, including the possibility of trial by jury, universal suffrage, territorial government booms in hemp, tobacco, and sugar, and free trade with the United States, and so on to infinity. It was not until Sunday afternoon that definite and final word was received describing the action of the Supreme Court. This came in the shape of a carefully considered and clearly worded cablegram from the Secretary of War to President Taft. It is self-explanatory, and the following is the text:—"Supreme Court holds that uniformity of duties clause of the Constitution does not apply to the Government of the islands ceded by Spain; that Congress has power to impose Customs duties on imports from Porto Rico and that such duties levied under the Foraker Act are lawful. The Court also holds that imposition of duties on merchandise imported from the United States into Porto Rico before the cession was a valid exercise of the President's power as Military Commander, and that the same duties imposed after the cession and before the passage of the Foraker Act were invalid, because the United States having both title by cession and peaceable possession, Porto Rico ceased to be a foreign country within the terms of the Dingley Tariff. The Court did not decide the case raising the question of the power of Congress to impose duties in Porto Rico on imports from the United States, which is objected to as constituting an export tax in violation of the Constitution Article I, section 9. The Court did not decide the case which raised the question of the right of the President to impose duties in the United States under the Dingley Act upon merchandise imported from the Philippine Islands after the ratification of the Treaty of Paris. The most obvious distinction between the status of Porto Rico and the Philippines after the cession, indicated in the opinions of the court, is in the fact that Porto Rico was at the time of cession in full peaceable possession while a state of war has continued in the Philippines. As the question of the President's power to impose duties in the Philippine Islands under the existing conditions of military occupation has not been decided by the court, the President has determined to continue to impose duties as heretofore. We hope for further decisions by the Supreme Court shortly after it meets in October and before the meeting of Congress. The revision of the

Philippine Tariff proposed by you (Taft) will be considered in a few days. [Signed]—Root, Secretary War."

In view of this condition of affairs it may be possible that Washington will see fit to continue the military government of the Philippines indefinitely, or at least until Congress meets at the end of the present year.

In the meantime the Civil Commission is carrying on its work without interruption, though this latest change in the political situation has considerably embarrassed its legislation. It is quite possible that the complete change which it was believed would occur on 1st July, when the Civil Authorities were to succeed the military, may be considerably delayed.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

THE SANITATION OF THE COLONY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
17th June.

SIR,—In continuation of my letter signed "T," published in your issue of the 24th May last, I beg to recommend the early adoption of high iron ventilating pipes for the better ventilation of all existing Chinese tenement houses, or rather human rookeries. These pipes are provided with revolving rain-proof caps with connecting appliances for the interiors of ground and upper flats of each house. They enable the wind to draw out the foul air from the dark and fetid interiors of the various flats and yards. The suction is continuous and goes on day and night, the void being filled with fresh air which rushes in from the outside. The revolving cap is so constructed that the mouth always faces in the direction the wind is blowing, so that there is no possible chance of the foul air being blown back down the pipe. These ventilating pipes are simple in construction and easy to put up. They must project beyond the roof, high enough to catch the wind, and should be fixed outside the houses, the openings connecting the interior of each flat being protected with iron gratings.

I strongly recommend these pipes for the ventilation of the main sewers of the city. I shall be glad to furnish particulars of my design to anybody who may care to apply for them.

In the meantime, all the traps and gullies of the city should be daily flushed and cleaned. But as the tenants cannot be expected or depended upon to do this regularly, it would be better for the Government to take the drainage question in hand without further delay.

If a system has been proved to be a failure, is it reasonable to expect it to turn out a success? To expect good from the present state of sanitation in this Colony, one might as well expect the moon to turn into a green cheese.

We must protect the trade and commercial reputation of our port at all costs, no matter if we have to sacrifice *laths* of dollars.

Why should the Government hesitate, when trade and shipping, the life blood of the Colony, is being paralysed from year to year.

With our hobby of human rookeries and foul drains, how can we blame the plague germs for having such an affectionate attachment for this *Island of Fragrant Streams*?

Not until these rookeries are resumed and demolished by the Government, and the existing system of drainage improved or remodelled, can the Colony ever expect to be free from plague, typhoid, malaria, &c., and the sooner this is recognised the better it will be for the trade and prosperity of the port.

In all resumed areas the Government should introduce the system of "twin" or semi-detached houses, as suggested in my letter of the 22nd ultimo.

The Government cannot help sacrificing its revenue, as good things cannot be had cheap.

Regarding the proposed experiment of fumigating the houses in the district bounded by Graham Street, Wellington Street, Shing Mong Street and Caine Road, may I ask whether the results would be so beneficial as anticipated?

If the traps, gullies and drains in this district are allowed to remain in their present foul and

poisonous condition, I do not see what benefits will be derived by fumigating these houses.

The poisonous germs may be destroyed by the process of fumigation, but will not these very houses get recharged with the same poisonous gases after they have been released? I therefore ask, will the good effects be permanent, and will they counterbalance the annoyance and inconvenience occasioned?

Again, what about the rats? Of course these found dead in the houses will be picked up and destroyed, but what about those in the holes and other hidden places? These will be left to rot, I suppose, and remain undiscovered until the stench is unbearable and the air inside the houses is poisoned and full of germs, perhaps of plague!

In my opinion it would be dangerous to kill rats by fumigation unless there is a certainty of collecting the whole lot of them. It is far different with the holds of ships, when there is every possibility of the whole colony of rats being killed and collected.

People are so scared of plague now that a dead rat, let alone a rotting one, is sufficient to unhinge their minds.

Fumigation is beneficial, but only when carried out judiciously under favourable circumstances. Instead of having the houses fumigated why not have them thoroughly washed out by a liberal use of fresh water and disinfectants? The tenants could do this themselves under the supervision of the officers of the Sanitary Board. This would result in some practical good being done. Water would clear the houses of their filth and help to flush the drains, and disinfectants would purify the air.

This would not necessitate the wholesale vacation of houses by their inmates as in the case of compulsory fumigation; and it will not be necessary for whole families of respectable Chinese women and children to stand or sit in the streets for hours in the broiling summer sun, and during all this time, open to the vulgar gaze of crowds of ignorant coolies and loafers. Is this going to be one of the beneficial results of fumigation?

By decrying the proposed experiment of fumigating this district it must not be taken, for one moment, to mean that I am in any way a prejudiced obstructionist.

I merely compare the two experiments, pointing out their advantages and disadvantages in the sole hope that the best scheme will be adopted for the benefit of the people and the Colony.

Under existing circumstances, I am of opinion that a thorough cleansing of the houses by a liberal use of fresh water and free disinfectants will give far better results than four hours of fumigation. Sunlight, fresh air and water are Nature's cures and therefore the most reliable.

I am sure the Chinese would be only too glad to wash and clean their houses, and in case a house was found to be imperfectly washed the superintending officer could order the operation to be repeated to his satisfaction.

Co-operation of this nature would prevent irritation, and give satisfaction to all concerned.

Thanking you for trespassing upon so much of your valuable space.—I am, yours, etc.,
TSE TSAN TAI.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
19th June.

SIR,—Referring to the publication in your issue of to-day of the Government reply to the communication received by it from the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce, I venture to call attention to a trite, and at the same time thoroughly applicable maxim, the very triteness and applicability of which more than answers the nonsensical and utterly irrelevant observations, which according to the letter in question constitute His Excellency's opinion on the subject matter of the communication he received from the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce.

"*Res ipsa loquitur*" is the maxim to which I refer, and having regard to its applicability to the state of affairs at present prevailing in Hongkong, I would ask what has H.E. the Governor done and what does he intend to do?

In conclusion, I would remark that if the conditions at present prevailing in Hongkong were permitted to so prevail without any due and proper attempt at prevention (as I contend

is the fact in this instance) in any ordinarily decently governed community at home, a searching enquiry by the Local Government Board would ensue, and those responsible would suffer, and not in reputation only.—Yours, etc.,
ONE WHO BELIEVES IN ACTION.

THE PLAGUE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
19th June.

SIR,—The quantity that has of late been said and written about the plague has apparently been of little or no benefit to this colony, and the reason, I believe, is that it is too late in the season for any measures which may be taken to cope with the evil to produce any immediate beneficial results. We must now look forward to the future, and, if our Sanitary Authorities wish to atone for their past culpable negligence, there will be a golden opportunity for them to do so.

Someone has said (I believe it was Dr. Clark) that the plague is endemic with us. That may or may not be the case, but certainly that is no reason why we should not do all that is in our power to dismiss the plague from our midst. In my humble opinion, if we were to do away, during the winter season, with the present system of drainage and sewerage, &c., and substitute therefore a better system, or else revert to the old one, and if we were furthermore to declare an uninterrupted war of extermination against all rodents, there will be in the near future less cases of plague here and perhaps none at all after the lapse of a few years. Care must, of course, be taken against importing plague cases, but this can easily be averted (to a certain extent at least) by enforcing medical inspection against all passengers coming from infected ports. As matters now stand, the results obtained are not at all satisfactory, and do not compensate in the least for the time and money expended in improving the present insanitary condition of this British colony.

If the above suggestion be carried out, one result is certain, we shall have less mosquitoes, and that should prove in itself a blessing all round. I believe mosquitoes were never more plentiful here than this year, and for this we must also thank those responsible for the present system of drainage and sewerage.—Yours, etc.,
X.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
20th June.

SIR,—H. E. the Governor in his reply to the latest representation of the local Chamber of Commerce said that unfortunately the remedies adopted to fight plague have failed here "as in India." So far H. E. and his Government are quite right, as every reader of Indian papers knows. But India, and especially Bombay, has still much to teach Hongkong in the matter of plague measures. Let us confine ourselves to Bombay only, which has been the greatest sufferer.

1. On the very first appearance of plague in Bombay, in 1896, the Government, or rather the Municipality of Bombay, made the fatal mistake of not acknowledging its existence, and persisted in calling it by all sorts of names other than plague proper.

2. When conviction was brought home to them that it was bubonic plague pure and simple, and nothing else, they actually lost their heads, and established a reign of terror by summarily dragging people to the only hospital for infectious diseases; and the result was that the measures adopted by the Municipality at the first outbreak of the plague were not only fruitless but succeeded only in striking terror into the people's minds and actually driving them mad. So much so that an exodus on a tremendous scale took place, houses, roads, and streets were deserted and desolate, the goods traffic on the railways came to a standstill, work at the docks stopped, and shipping was thereby adversely affected. But the Municipal authorities heeded these not, and kept up their reign of terror. People openly resisted removal of plague patients to the hospital, and their resistance was only subdued by the help of a strong police.

3. General Gatacre was commanding the troops located in Bombay at the time. He approached Government with a scheme of his own. He proposed opening several plague hospitals in different localities, segregation

of plague contacts, house-to-house visitation, option of treatment by hospital doctors or private practitioners; and General Gatacre was successful. Government almost bodily accepted his proposals, appointed what was called "The Plague Committee," with the General himself as Chairman, the Municipality had its authority temporarily suspended and transferred to this Committee, and the Health Officer himself was placed under the orders of the Committee. In this connection it must certainly be acknowledged that Bombay was favoured with professional assistance and advice all the way from Hongkong, the parent, as popular fancy puts it, of this plague of the 19th century, and Dr. Lowson and others were specially deputed to help and advise the authorities there from their previous experience. But as will be seen later on, instead of Hongkong guiding and advising Bombay in plague matters, it is Bombay that does that turn to Hongkong. General Gatacre was very successful in restoring public confidence and tranquility and winning over all opposition, and during his administration a number of private hospitals for the treatment of plague patients were opened in various localities, treatment by the hospital doctor or private practitioner was made optional, inmates of infected places were segregated in large camps in the various suburbs of the city, and, more than that, even people in whose houses no plague had taken place were given every facility to go and reside in segregation camps. The Gatacre Committee thus helped the Municipality and Government, and served the public to the extent of restoring peace and tranquility; but still all were groping in the dark, as at this moment even, and none knew what the dread scourge was, where it came from, what were its sure and convincing symptoms, what was the remedy, either curative or preventative, what was its duration, what season was most favourable to the virulence or otherwise of the disease, and so forth. The one point and the main point scored by the Gatacre Committee was that people voluntarily went to their respective private hospitals and to the segregation camps and voluntarily gave their houses up for fumigation, disinfection, etc. Among the numerous private hospitals thus opened in Bombay, the Parsees had one of their own. It was placed under the absolute control and supervision of the late Dr. K. N. Bahadurji, a Parsee M.D. of London, who was acknowledged by the profession to be a talented man. It was he who first resorted to the "Ice-sheet remedy." This learned Doctor treated his patients in his own way, and kept plague patients wholly wrapt in ice-cold linen sheets, and he claimed a certain amount of success, as he showed by figures and statistics from time to time. But still all the medical skill of Bombay could not find out any specific remedy.

4. Then there was the inoculation. M. Haffkine, afterwards created a C.I.E. by the Government of India, a Russian scientist, proclaimed a prophylactic which he had been preparing, testing, improving, and trying on patients, and he succeeded somewhat. But as the public and the Press firmly believed and boldly asserted, it was a sin that he was a Russian. The Government, and especially the medical profession as represented by the I.M.S., refused to take any notice of the serum or to give any fair trial. But the Press is powerful in these days, and it asserted itself. The *Times of India* of all papers took the lead in severely rating the Government for neglecting this serum. At length Government was awakened to a sense of appreciation. They placed a laboratory at the disposal of M. Haffkine, they gave him all facilities to work quietly and assiduously, and ultimately inoculation was resorted to by people, at first timidly and then cheerfully. The Government and the Press combined in making inoculation popular, but still there was no popular outburst in its favour, although as time went on inoculation found more favour, and the inoculation statistics are very much worth study by the authorities, and especially by the profession.

5. Then there was the Yersin serum, which claimed curative properties. The Government and the Municipality gave it a trial, but it has not been so great as to enable one to come to any definite conclusions as in the case of the Haffkine serum.

6. Besides very many specifics and panaceas were announced by medical men and others. But that prepared by a Hindu, Professor Gujjar, an M.A. of the Bombay University and an expert in matters scientific, is reported to have achieved the greatest success. He has a private laboratory of his own, and it was he who won the Government of Bombay reward of Rs. 5,000 for cleaning and restoring to its original beauty the statue of Her late Majesty the Queen which had been disfigured by some fanatics by painting the head over by a thick layer of tar and rendering it beyond recognition, so that it had to be kept covered up until renovated by this scientist.

7. Side by side with segregation, inoculation, camping-out, people were allowed to treat plague cases in their own houses and by their own doctors, provided, of course, the house answered all the sanitary conditions laid down by the authorities.

8. As the result of the house-to-house visitation many cases were brought to light which might otherwise have remained concealed from the authorities. At first soldiers were employed, but it caused friction and irritation and only resulted in deplorable riots in which two British soldiers were killed and many others more or less seriously wounded or injured. Soldiers were dispensed with, and volunteers were employed with better and more pacifying results. During these inspections, houses where cases were found and which were unfit as residences were marked by the authorities U. H. H. (unfit for human habitation) and such houses were closed and barricaded and doomed to destruction.

To summarise —

House-to-house visitation with aid of volunteers.

Removal of plague cases to hospitals to be done with as much persuasion as possible.

Patients to have the option of private treatment at private residences by private doctors, provided, of course, the place was fit for the purpose.

Camps to be erected in any and every possible spot available, and to provide people with travelling facilities to reside in those camps in outlying places and come to Victoria to transact business.

Inoculation be resorted to and made popular, proceeding very cautiously and discriminately, because inoculation is not infallible, final, or of universal benefit.

There are the two large questions of the gutters and water-supply which deserve careful attention and study and, as here, there is an consensus of opinion that the gutters, as the rats, are the sources of this dire disease, but it is purely a technical matter and the shoemaker should stick to his last. Professor Gujjar, the Hindu scientist above mentioned, attributes all these plague troubles to these "blooming" gutters.

Let the local Government communicate with the Bombay Government, or depute an expert or experts, and they will gather a mass of useful and instructive information which will greatly help them out of the tight position in which they unfortunately find themselves now, because, it cannot be gainsaid, that Hongkong cannot command the professional skill and resources that Bombay can as regards the nature and extent of experience of plague, plague origin, plague measures, plague remedies, either preventive or curative.

A BOMBAYITE.

THE INACTION OF THE GOVERNMENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
16th June.

SIR,—May I respectfully ask whether the Government, as represented by H.E. the Governor and the chiefs of departments, has lost its head entirely, or is it hopelessly incompetent?

Are Europeans to contract plague daily and die from it without anything being done now in the way of remedial measures, than were done six months ago?

The plague districts are all on the lower levels, and yet the flushing of sewers and washing of streets are still left to Providence, in the shape of a very occasional shower of

rain. A few hose-pipes from the floating fire engines could do this effectively daily.

In his Plague Report for 1894, Dr. Lowson, said any civilised centre need not fear combating an epidemic of plague if sufficient medical men are forthcoming to meet it. Think of the wretchedly undermanned medical and public health staffs we now have and realise how the Government have profited by Dr. Lowson's warning!

If the Government is hopelessly unable to fight the disease, and is unwilling to expend any of that dear surplus it hugs so tightly to its official bosom, perhaps a public subscription list, which will put the Government to everlasting shame and condemnation, will help to alleviate the present shameful condition of things.

We want more doctors, a dozen at least, and at least a corps of 300 supernumerary Sanitary Inspectors, made up of volunteers from the regiment. These can be had by the expenditure of a portion of that very surplus. We want the daily flushing of sewers, at least on the lower levels, by the fire-boats, and if they can be employed for weeks in pumping out derelict dredgers, they may also be allowed to serve a useful purpose in cleansing the lower streets and drains daily.

Has the Government no brains that it cannot think these and other remedial measures out and put them into operation, or is it going to slumber for ever at the Peak and leave the lower levels to disease and death, or wait until a wholesale exodus from the colony reminds it of its duty?—Yours, etc.,

S.

[As our correspondent will see from the paragraph in another column, the flushing of the sewers was begun last Saturday, so that we have at last one necessary step taken for meeting the present epidemic.—ED. D. P.]

THE FLUSHING OF THE SEWERS

Hongkong, 18th June.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Sir.—Really the Government ought to "own up" and ask the leading inhabitants to help them out of the present plague crisis. Just fancy after all these years of inaction and incompetence to start flushing drains from the bottom of a hill. It is obvious to all thinking people that if the drains are to be flushed water must be taken to a high level and poured down. It becomes necessary to point out to the "authorities" that water does not flow upwards. It is also necessary to point out that the present "method" of turning a hose into the bottom of a drain can only have the effect of driving the sewer rats to a higher level and thus spreading the plague.

It is known that rats are the chief distributors of plague. Why not make an honest attempt to exterminate rats. Surely someone is responsible for the inaction which is dealing out death, misery, and suffering in our midst. Can any of your readers say who is?—Yours, etc.,

PROTEST.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
19th June.

SIR,—I see that our sewers are being "flushed" with water from hoses. Now, all the flow of water from a hose will, in my opinion, be quite insufficient to have any appreciable flushing effect on sewers of such size as those in Queen's Road. I consider that if the same quantity of water were used periodically for thoroughly scouring and cleaning the foot-paths and gutters, the effect would be immensely better—especially those foot-paths which are protected from rain, where sputa and little heaps of refuse, etc., gradually dry up and become floating dust.—Yours, etc.,

SCIENCE.

Judgment in the case instituted in the Kobo Chiho Saibansho against Mr. J. Carey Hall, British Consul, by Mr. Ito Shigematsu, in which the latter claimed payment of extra freight and damages alleged to have arisen out of a contract for the supply of carts for the British troops in North China, was given on the 5th inst. The claim of the plaintiff was dismissed with costs.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, 17th June.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE
(PUISNE JUDGE).

TROUBLE ABOUT A WATCH.

Lock Hing Nam sued J. Ullmann & Co., watchmakers and jewellers, 74, Queen's Road, for the return of \$100 on the price of a watch sold to the plaintiff by the defendants.

Mr. J. S. Harston, solicitor, appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. E. J. Grist, solicitor, for the defendant.

Mr. Harston explained the facts of the case, which were as follows. On or about September, 1900, the plaintiff bought from the defendant a Chinese gold watch, and was so pleased with it that he determined to buy another from them. He ordered the second watch, and said he wanted it made with a repeater movement. On the 4th of May this year the plaintiff called at the defendant's shop, and saw the manager, who told him that the watch was in proper working order. The plaintiff asked—"Does the case weigh three ounces in gold?" The defendant's manager replied—"Yes, it does, and if it were possible I should weigh it; but the movement of the watch is so complicated that I would advise you not to have it weighed, as the movement might thereby be impaired." The plaintiff said—"Well, I should like to have the case weighed," and the defendant's manager answered—"If you have it weighed I won't have the watch warranted for three years" (referring presumably to the firm's custom of guaranteeing watches for three years). The manager added—"If the watch-case does not weigh three ounces in gold, I will return \$100 out of the sum of \$300 you are going to pay for the watch." The plaintiff asked—"Will you add that to your bill?" and the manager said—"Yes," thereupon writing the agreement on the bill. This, Mr. Harston submitted, constituted an undertaking on the part of the defendant to refund the sum of \$100 if the watch-case did not weigh three ounces. The plaintiff read the bill through, and found added certain figures in brackets—"89.45 grs." He asked for an explanation of these figures, and the manager replied—"It's all right. If you read you will see that I undertake to return \$100 if the watch-case does not weigh three ounces in gold." The plaintiff found this to be so, and paid the money—\$300—for the watch, which he took away with him. A day or two later he had the watch-case weighed at Messrs. C. J. Gaupp and Co.'s, and discovered that it did not weigh three ounces—further, that it was not even the weight of 89.45 grammes. He consulted Mr. Ewens, solicitor, certain correspondence between the parties ensued, and the case was finally taken into Court.

The plaintiff, Lock Hing Nam, was called and gave evidence. Mr. Grist afterwards cross-examined.

The watch was taken to pieces in Court by one of the defendant firm's Chinese workmen and the case weighed by a European from Messrs. Gaupp. Weighed with steel which Mr. Grist held formed part of the case, it weighed 90½ grammes. Without the steel, which Mr. Harston contended was not part of the case, it weighed 88.1/10 grammes.

His Lordship, after hearing arguments, entered judgment for the plaintiff, with costs.

Tuesday, 18th June.

CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR JOHN CARRINGTON, K.T., C.M.G. (CHIEF JUSTICE)

THE LIST.

There were six cases on the day's calendar—(1) Chan Ching Un, being a member of an unlawful society; (2) Percy Thomas Crisp, (a) obtaining a bribe with a view to influence his conduct as a public servant, and (b) accepting a bribe with a view to influence his conduct as a public servant; (3) Tam Shek Yeung,

attempted larceny; (4) Lo Yew Hai; (5) Pang Lun, (a) selling counterfeit coins; (b) uttering counterfeit coins, (c) having three or more counterfeit coins in his possession, (d) uttering counterfeit coins; (6) Tam Tsing, giving a bribe to a public servant with a view to influence his conduct.

Hon. H. E. Pollock, K.C. (Acting Attorney-General), addressing his Lordship, said he should like to mention certain cases on the calendar. Case 6 was defended by Mr. Robinson, and he would ask his Lordship to take it after case 1, which would finish that day. Cases 2 and 5 were defended by Mr. Francis; case 2 might be taken immediately after case 6, and case 5 immediately after case 2. Case 3 Mr. Pollock asked his Lordship to take after all the other cases; it would be defended by Mr. Sharp. With regard to case 4, that would be sent back to the magistrate to be re-heard.

His Lordship agreed to this arrangement of the cases.

TRIAD SOCIETY CASE.

Chan Ching Un was charged with being a member of an unlawful society, to wit., the Triad Society. He pleaded not guilty.

The following jury were empanelled:—Messrs. Guilio Badalo, Joaquim dos Passos, Noronha, Cesario Maria Barradas, Christoph Wilhelm Jean Hagelberg, Beltrao Lucas de Carvalho, Viliato Bonrifacio de Souza, and Martin Meyer.

Mr. Pollock said the defendant was arrested by Chinese P. S. 254 on 14th May, who on the following day went with the defendant to his house—a matshed near Mong Kok. The sergeant searched the house, and found amongst other things a book wrapped up in a handkerchief with various other books. These books would be proved by a witness for the prosecution, who had made a study of Triad Society doctrines, to be writings of the Triad Society. The Chinese sergeant would prove that he found the books inside the defendant's box, and would also tell that the defendant said the box and all the books were his. A minute afterwards the defendant changed his story and said the book was given to him by a friend. The sergeant said he would like to see the friend, and the defendant then said he had picked up the book from the ground. When taken to the police station and charged, the defendant said he was not a member of the Triad Society, that the book was not his and that he had so many books he did not know the book was mixed up with the others. The defendant had thus given three inconsistent accounts as to how he came by the book, and the jury would have to consider the case from all sides very carefully.

Evidence was then led. The greater part of it was published during the magisterial enquiry.

The Chinese police sergeant gave evidence relative to the finding of the book in the defendant's house. He was followed by a Chinese expert in Triad matters. It transpired, however, that the "expert" was really not an expert—that he had had very little experience of Triad literature.

The evidence for the prosecution having thus broken down, the defendant was discharged.

ALLEGED BRIBERY OF A POLICE SERGEANT.
Tam Tsing was charged with giving a bribe to a public servant, with a view to influence his conduct. He pleaded not guilty, and was defended by Mr. E. Robinson, barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. J. F. Reece).

The jury was made up of the following gentlemen:—Messrs. J. Benjamin, J. S. Ezekiel, S. L. Jenkins, W. F. Gardner, S. G. Nerrall, W. Hardwick, W. A. Sims.

Mr. Pollock addressing the jury, said that Sergeant Watt, who had been a member of the detective staff since 5th October last, was the complainant. Sergeant Watt was specially detailed for duty under the Arms Ordinance, his sole work being to attend to matters under that Ordinance. Sergeant Watt would tell the jury that he knew the defendant, and that he was connected with the Yau Hang arms shops, 322, Queen Road Central. Defendant appeared to have something to do with the management of that shop. Since Sergeant Watt started his duties under the Arms Ordinance, the master of the Yau Hang had been convicted no less than 34 times for breaches of the Arms Ordinance. In each of these cases

Sergeant Watt was the complainant. Defendant was the person who nearly always came up to the Central Police Station to apply for removal permits. These permits were usually issued by the Captain Superintendent of Police or by the Deputy Superintendent of Police. Since 5th October, 1900, however, applicants had been always referred to Sergeant Watt, and several applications have been refused on the report of Sergeant Watt. The evidence would show that on the 5th inst. Sergeant Watt went to the Harbour Office and waited on the east side. He saw the defendant and a man named Kung On coming towards him. Kung On was a room-boy to the European sergeants and constables at the Central Police Station, and would be a witness for the prosecution. The defendant and Kung On came up to where Sergeant Watt was standing, and the defendant said something in Chinese which Sergeant Watt partly understood—or at least understood, from his knowledge of Chinese, to mean that the defendant was mentioning something about percussion caps. Sergeant Watt also heard the defendant say, in Chinese—"I'll give him \$30 for each box of caps." The defendant further made mention of a name which, it appeared, was Chinese for Messrs Lauts, Wegener & Company. After this conversation had taken place, Sergeant Watt told Kung On to tell the defendant to go away and the latter went off. On the following day, the 6th inst., somewhere about half past eight in the evening, Sergeant Watt was coming up the verandah of the Central Station from the canteen, accompanied by Lance-Sergeant Kerr, when Kung On and the defendant came up from the opposite side of the compound. Kung On called out, "Watt," and the sergeant stopped, Lance-Sergeant Kerr going on his way. Kung On and the defendant came up to Sergeant Watt, and all three proceeded towards the back of the building. In conversation Sergeant Watt learnt that the defendant was coming up on the Saturday about permits for seven cases of percussion caps. The defendant then handed a Chinese envelope to Kung On, and the latter passed it to Sergeant Watt. The envelope, which was closed up when Sergeant Watt received it, would be produced in Court. The defendant immediately afterwards left the station, and Kung On went upstairs. Sergeant Watt opened the envelope at ten o'clock on the morning of the 7th in the detective office in the presence of Inspector Hanson. Inside the envelope he found two banknotes—one for \$100 on the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China, and the other for \$50 on the National Bank of China. Sergeant Watt took the envelopes and notes and reported the matter to Captain Superintendent May. The notes were subsequently handed to Deputy Superintendent Badeley. That, concluded Mr. Pollock, was the story that would be told by Sergeant Watt, and his evidence would be corroborated by the evidence of Kung On, the room-boy at the Central Police Station.

Sergeant Watt then gave evidence, and was cross-examined by Mr. Robinson. Complainant said it was he, not Kung On, who arranged the trap for the defendant. It was originally intended that he should meet the defendant at the German Tavern, but that plan was subsequently altered to the Harbour Office. Complainant did not know who arranged that he should meet the defendant at the German Tavern; he was told by Kung On that that was the place. Kung On escorted the "bird" to the Harbour Office. Complainant did not know the Chinese for "aerated-water machine," nor did he know the Hong name for Leopold, Spatz & Co. Complainant did not know whether that firm sold hand-machines for the manufacture of aerated waters. He knew nothing about the aerated water business, nor of the profits to be derived from the trade. Complainant knew nothing of an arrangement whereby he and Kung On and the defendant were to go shares in an aerated-water business; that was the first he had heard of it.

Kung On gave corroborative evidence. He said the defendant one day asked him—"Can you tell the sergeant not to trouble my arms shop, and I am willing to give him a hundred dollars?" Defendant called at the Central Police Station on the 4th

inst. and asked witness—"Did you enquire of the police sergeant about that matter for me?" Witness replied that he had, and that the police sergeant had said he would see about it. On the 5th inst. witness went to the Yan Hang arms shop and saw the defendant, to whom he said—"If you want to see the police sergeant go to the Harbour Office, where the sergeant is waiting for you." Defendant and witness went to the Harbour Office together where they saw Sergeant Watt. The defendant mentioned that he wanted a permit to remove a number of boxes of percussion caps from Messrs. Lauts, Wegener & Company's premises to his shop in Queen's Road, and that he would get them quietly to Canton from there. Defendant said he would give the sergeant \$30 a case. At the Central Police station, on the evening of the 6th inst., the defendant said if he got a permit from the sergeant he could smuggle the caps to Canton.

By Mr. Robinson—Witness did not know how long defendant had been in the colony. Witness had been for nine years room boy at the Central Police Station. Whether Sergeant Watt would or would not accept a bribe was not for witness to say. Defendant, anyway, did not say anything about a bribe, nor was anything not said about a partnership for the sergeant in an aerated-water business. Witness had never been connected with a yamen, and could not say whether or not it was the custom in China for people to give money to public officials. Witness did not know that Sergeant Watt was anxious to catch the defendant. He told the defendant that the sergeant, when money was mentioned, had said—"All right," but could not say whether or not the defendant would have paid out any money had the sergeant said it was not all right. Witness did not speak familiarly to Sergeant Watt at any time, and never addressed him by his surname only.

Sergeant Murison said that on the evening of the 6th inst., about 9.15, Sergeant Watt showed him a small Chinese envelope.

Mr. Robinson had no questions.

Chief Detective Inspector Hanson remembered Sergeant Watt coming into the detective office at the Central Police Station on the morning of the 7th inst. with a closed envelope in his hand. The envelope, when opened, was found to contain two banknotes to the total value of \$150.

No questions by Mr. Robinson.

By his Lordship—Witness drew up the charge against the defendant by direction of the Captain Superintendent of Police.

Chung Chau King, sergeant interpreter at the Central Police Station, said he took down the following statement by the defendant when he was charged—"I did not give him (complainant) money."

This concluded the evidence, and the jury retired to consider their verdict. They returned after an absence of two minutes, and the foreman said they were unanimous in finding the defendant guilty.

Sentence was passed of nine months' hard labour.

Wednesday, 19th June.

CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR JOHN CARRINGTON, Kt., C.M.G. (CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE CHARGE AGAINST AN INSPECTOR OF BUILDINGS.

Percy Thomas Crisp, inspector of buildings, Public Works Department, was charged (1) with obtaining a bribe to influence his conduct as a public servant, and (2) with accepting a bribe with a view to influence his conduct as a public servant. The defendant pleaded not guilty, and was represented by Mr. J. J. Francis, K.C. (instructed by Mr. J. F. Reece).

Before the trial commenced, Mr. Francis asked his Lordship to allow Crisp to take a seat outside the dock.

Mr. Pollock—I have no objection.

His Lordship—I don't like to make distinctions in these cases. I have no objection to his taking a seat inside the dock.

Mr. Francis—If your Lordship thinks so.

A chair was then handed to Crisp.

The following jurymen were empanelled:—Messrs J. A. Woodgates, W. P. V. Pigram, W. A. Cruickshank, M. Steger, C. W. F. Hagelberg, C. J. Clegg, and R. Saxon.

In stating the case, Hon. H. E. Pollock K.C. (Acting Attorney-General), said the defendant was charged upon an indictment taken in two counts. In the first count he was charged with having on 24th April, 1901, then being a public servant holding the office of overseer in the Public Works Department, unlawfully obtained from one Chung Shun Koo a bribe—to wit, the sum of \$40—with a view to influence his (the defendant's) conduct. Under the second count the defendant was charged that on 24th April he unlawfully did accept from one Chung Shun Koo a bribe of \$41, with a view to influence his conduct as such public servant. These two counts arose out of and were founded upon the same state of facts, and were merely different ways chosen by the Crown of stating the charge against the prisoner. Both counts were laid under section 3 of Ordinance 3 of 1898, which enacted that every public servant who accepted or obtained from any person a bribe with a view to influence his conduct as such public servant would be guilty of a misdemeanour. The ostensible complainant in the case was Chief Detective Inspector Hanson, but the practical complainant was a young English-speaking Chinaman called Chung Shun Koo. This man owned several houses in Victoria, including one at 31, Hollywood Road. He lived at 9, Old Bailey, but had letters left for him at the Yee Yik Wing shop, 362, Queen's Road Central. The defendant, Percy Thomas Crisp, was an overseer in the Public Works Department, and had been engaged in England to come here to carry out the work of inspecting buildings under the Building Ordinance in force in this colony. The defendant worked under the supervision of Mr. Tooker, Acting Assistant Director of Public Works, and had a desk in Mr. Tooker's room at the Public Works office. The bribe alleged in the indictment was in connection with the house at 31, Hollywood Road. On 30th January of this year the defendant reported to Mr. Tooker that the house was in a dangerous state, and that certain repairs were necessary. On 5th February Mr. Tooker wrote to Chung Shun Koo calling upon him to have the repairs effected. That notice was referred by Chung Shun Koo to his architects, Messrs. Leigh and Orange, and they on 8th February wrote to the Director of Public Works, submitting proposals for the carrying out of the repairs at 31, Hollywood Road. On 11th February the defendant reported to Mr. Tooker that Messrs. Leigh and Orange's proposals were insufficient.

Correspondence relating to the house at 31, Hollywood Road, was read by Mr. Pollock.

Continuing, the Acting Attorney-General said that from the evidence of the accountant at 362, Queen's Road Central (where letters were left for Chung Shun Koo) it would be shown that the defendant called three times at the shop to see Chung Shun Koo, who on every occasion was out. On the third occasion the defendant handed the accountant a small visiting card bearing his name, and as he was leaving the defendant made use of the following expression—"Chung Shun Koo, give me \$50." The visiting card was handed to Chung Shun Koo by the accountant, who repeated the defendant's remark about \$50. Subsequently Chung Shun Koo called on Captain Superintendent May and reported the circumstance. Mr. May took a note of the numbers of certain banknotes, and on 23rd April sent a Chinese detective sergeant to stay at Chung Shun Koo's house, 9, Old Bailey. On the following day, 24th April, Chung Shun Koo went to the office of the Public Works Department and saw the defendant. Chung Shun Koo told the defendant that he did not know what to do to the house at 31, Hollywood Road, and asked his advice. The defendant said he would go with Chung Shun Koo to the house and show him what to do, and after obtaining Mr. Tooker's permission to do so, the defendant and Chung Shun Koo left the office together and proceeded to Hollywood Road. They ascended to the roof of the house, and said Mr. Pollock, Chung Shun Koo would tell the jury that whilst on the roof the defendant asked him for \$100, adding that he would show him how to repair the house cheaply. The defen-

dant also offered to make a sketch showing what was required. The defendant and Chung Shun Koo descended from the roof and proceeded to the latter's house at 9, Old Bailey, going up to the sitting-room, where were seated the detective sergeant sent by Mr. May and Chung Shun Koo's rent collector. The defendant sat down at a table and drew a sketch showing how to repair the house at Hollywood Road for \$60, instead of spending \$100 on it. A considerable amount of haggling ensued as to the sum the defendant was to receive for his trouble in the matter. Apparently the defendant asked for \$100, but finally he agreed to Chung Shun Koo's offer of \$40, and promised to give no more trouble about the house in Hollywood Road. Chung Shun Koo then passed over \$10 in notes—those marked by Mr. May. The defendant soon after went downstairs, and practically walked into the arms of Inspector Hanson, who found in the defendant's possession the notes handed him just previously by Chung Shun Koo. At the Police Court the defendant stated that he took the money intending to make an example of Chung Shun Koo, and the jury, concluded Mr. Pollock, would have to consider carefully whether the defendant took the money corruptly as a bribe, or whether he accepted it in order to trap Chung Shun Koo.

Evidence was then led. It was fully published in these columns during the magisterial enquiry. Chung Shun Koo, when called, expressed a wish to give his evidence in Chinese.

Mr. Francis—He gave the whole of his evidence at the Police Court in English without any difficulty, your Lordship.

Mr. Francis added, addressing Chung Shun Koo—I suppose you want to get time to think as the translations are being given.

His Lordship (to witness)—I think you had better give your evidence in English.

The hearing continued throughout the day, and at five o'clock was adjourned till ten o'clock next morning. Crisp was again allowed bail of \$500.

Thursday, 20th June.

CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON, KT., C.M.G.
(CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE CHARGE AGAINST INSPECTOR CRISP.

The case for the Crown concluded in the afternoon, and evidence for the defence was then heard.

Lo Tzi Lun, an interpreter at the Public Works Department, one of the witnesses for the defence, said he one day saw Chung Shun Koo in Mr. Crisp's office, and overheard part of what was said. Chung Shun Koo asked Mr. Crisp—"Do you want cigars, or anything?" Mr. Crisp grew very angry, and told witness to tell Chung Shun Koo that he did not want anything, and that he was to get the house at 31, Hollywood Road repaired at once. Some twenty minutes later Chung Shun Koo stopped witness in the passage at the Public Works Department and asked—"Is the inspector of buildings receiving bribes?" Witness replied in the negative and Chung Shun Koo continued—"I should like you to make an arrangement with him to treat me leniently, and I will give him some money." Witness told Chung Shun Koo that he had no right to talk as he was doing, but the latter persisted in his offer to bribe Mr. Crisp.

By Mr. Pollock—Witness was the chief interpreter at the Public Works Office. He had often acted as Mr. Crisp's interpreter. He saw a previous witness for the defence that day in the witness-room, but had not conversed with him. Witness had never seen Chung Shun Koo till the day he called at the Public Works Office.

The trial was shortly afterwards adjourned.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

HUMPHREYS ESTATE COMPANY V. CHAN YEW TING.

The Humphreys Estate and Finance Company, Limited, plaintiffs, claimed \$1,000, money paid by them into Court and handed over by mis-

take to the defendant, Chan Yew Ting, interpreter to Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master. The plaintiff's full claim was stated to be \$1,100, but they waived that sum in order to bring the suit within the jurisdiction of the Court. The plaintiffs, who also claimed by costs of suit were represented Mr. F. B. Deacon, solicitor, (of Messrs. Deacon and Hastings), and Mr. G. C. C. Master, solicitor (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master), appeared for the defendant.

The case, it was explained to his Honour, arose out of previous issues, and, briefly stated, was as follows. In February, 1899, Chan Yew Ting instituted a suit against one Pang Yau, and succeeded. Chan Yew Ting then issued a writ of execution against Pang Yau, and simultaneously a prohibitory order to the Humphreys Estate and Finance Company, Limited, to restrain that Company from parting with money due by them to Pang Yau and Soo Sum, a co-contractor with Pang Yau in respect of seven houses then in course of erection on Kowloon Inland Lot No. 540. Messrs. Palmer and Turner were the architects engaged by the Humphreys Estate and Finance Company for these houses. The money attached in the prohibitory order issued by Chan Yew Ting was due by the Humphreys Estate Company to Pang Yau and Soo Sum jointly, as being contractors in the building of the houses on Inland Lot 540. On receiving the prohibitory order, the Humphreys Estate Company consulted with their architects, Messrs. Palmer and Turner, who advised that the money be paid into Court. Soon after it had been paid into Court, the money was handed out to the then plaintiff, Chan Yew Ting. The Humphreys Estate Company now allege that they paid the money into Court by a mistake of fact, and therefore Chan Yew Ting should refund the money.

After hearing arguments, His Honour decided to reserve judgment.

NORTHERN NOTES.

The following items are from the *P. & T. Times* of the 8th inst. It would appear that the Provisional Government exercises a Press censorship, for there are practically no details about the Taku Road affray on the 2nd inst. beyond the mention of the fact that the inciting cause was the closing of one of the low houses in the neighbourhood.

Li Hung-chang is enrolling additional police to preserve peace now that the foreign troops are withdrawing.

The Wu Yin-tien Hall of the Imperial Palace where old official records were kept, was burnt to the ground on Tuesday night.

It is reported that the Chinese have asked the Japanese to organise a police force 2,000 strong for the preservation of order in Peking.

The *Je Je* states that they hear from Peking that the railway will shortly be handed back to the Chinese, a foreign guard being posted at each station.

The Chinese are sending troops to guard the Grand Canal, East River and North districts against brigands, these being outside the P. G. jurisdiction.

Wu Ting-fang has telegraphed to Li Hung-chang from Washington urging him to strongly oppose the opening of China, and the development of mines by foreigners.

General Voyron has for the better preservation of the general peace, prohibited his men from entering the British Settlement, wisely considering it best to consider this Settlement out of bounds, in the same way as we have always regarded the French Settlement. We trust the arrangement will work well.

Count von Walderssee left here on Tuesday even more quietly than he came; detachments from all the troops here forming guards of honour at the Station. His task has been an ungracious one throughout and all things considered the old and distinguished soldier is to be congratulated on the admirable tact he has displayed throughout, and the amicable relations he has been able to maintain with the various commanders more or less under his direction. That this good understanding was none the less due to the sensible appreciation of the difficulties of the situation which military commanders of all nationalities displayed, goes

without saying, and must have contributed greatly to reduce the complications of responsibilities which H. E. is, we believe, very glad to relinquish in returning home.

In handing over the supreme command of the Allied Forces, Count von Walderssee extended his hearty thanks to Lieut.-General Gaselee and the officers under him for their co-operation with him in service.

BENEFIT PERFORMANCE BY THE R. E. VARIETY CLUB.

Any project which has as its ultimate end the relief from want of the deserving always finds ready and willing supporters in Hongkong, as has been proved again on Saturday night, the 15th inst. by the filled house present to witness the entertainment given by the Royal Engineers' Variety Club, at their theatre at the Wellington Barracks, in aid of the widow of the late Gunner Philpin, R.A. The fare provided was excellent, and well appreciated by the audience, as was shown by the vociferous applause given to each item. The entertainment opened with the Oxford March, ably rendered by the amateur orchestra, followed by an extra, a song entitled "What do you think of the Irish now?" well rendered by Private Burgess, A.O.C., Sergt. Ward's "I'm a Plumber" brought down the house, as did Arm. Sergt. Viggers's "Then I understood." Two selected songs by Mr. Wallis were ably rendered and much appreciated. The song and dance "Kitty Green" and an Irish jig by Sergt. Burnett were also items which pleased highly. In Sergt. Simmer's "The Skipper" and "The Mighty Deep," we recognized a couple of old friends, none the less welcome. Sergt. Viggers's songs "That reminds me" and a parody on "Tell me, Mother Darling," given as an encore, caused the very roof to shake with the storm of applause following their inimitable rendering. Sergt. Ward's recitation "A Little Mistake" convulsed the audience with laughter; but the palm among the vocal artists was of course carried off by Mrs. Whitehouse, whose sweet voice was heard to great advantage in the song of the "Amorous Goldfish," in the *Geisha*, and in an encore. The entertainment concluded with a one act farce entitled "Leave it to Me." It was well acted and intensely comical, there being not a dull moment in it from beginning to end. Major R. Littledale, under whose patronage the entertainment took place, was present, as were a number of Artillery officers. On the whole the entertainment proved a huge success, from a monetary and artistic point of view. Everything went with a verve and swing from first to last, and the audience left well satisfied.

FORTHCOMING GYMKHANA MEETING.

The following is the programme of the first Gymkhana meeting of the 1901 season, to be held at the Happy Valley on Saturday, 29th June, weather permitting:—

- 1.—4.30 p.m. One mile handicap for all walers. Four to start or no race. Entrance \$3.00. 1st prize presented. 2nd prize \$20.00.
- 2.—4.45 p.m. Ladies' Nomination Despatch Race.—Entrance \$1.00. Prizes from Gymkhana Fund. A. receives a despatch, runs 100 yards and hands it to B. B. mounts his pony and rides halfway round the course, dismounts and gets on bicycle on which he rides to a point 100 yards from winning post, hands despatch to lady seated in ricksha who is dragged in by A., B. pushing behind. Mafcoos allowed. Competitors provide their own ricksha.
- 3.—5.15 p.m. Steeplechase.—For all ponies 14.2 and under. Over the Steeplechase Course. Catch Weights over 11st. 7lbs. Entrance \$2.00. 1st Prize presented. 2nd prize, \$20.00.
- 4.—5.30 p.m. Polo Scurry.—From the Bend, in.—For certified polo ponies. Catch weights over 11st. 7lbs. To be run in heats without dismounting. Entrance, \$2. Two prizes from the Gymkhana Fund.
- 5.—5.45 p.m. ½ Mile Race.—For all ponies 14.2. and under. Weight for inches as per scale

of 1901 Race Meeting. Entrance \$3. 1st prize presented. 2nd prize \$20.

6—6.00 p.m. Chair Race.—For Soldiers and Sailors in Costume. Four men to a chair. 1st prize, \$20. 2nd prize, \$10. Extra prize of \$5 for best turn-out. Competitors provide their own chairs. Occupant of chair to scale 9st.

Entries close to the Hon. Secretary at the Hongkong Club, 6 p.m., Monday, June 24th, and the entrance fee must be sent at the same time, or the entrance cannot be received.

THE RUSSIANS IN SZECHUEN.

IN TROUBLE WITH THE TIBETANS.

A *Shanghai Mercury* correspondent writes under date Yachow, 18th May:—

The Russians are on the western frontier of Szechuen and are moreover in some difficulty. As long ago as February last a party of twenty Russians was reported at Tachienlu. They had come from the west, had been in collision with the Tibetans, surrounded by them indeed and only rescued by the good offices of Chinese officials with the Tibetan tribesmen. So says the official report to the Viceroy of this province. After staying at Tachienlu for a time the Russians are said to have turned on their tracks and again gone into the inhospitable land of the Lamas. Now again a report is rife that they are in trouble with the Tibetans and the chief officials from Tachienlu have gone in to their aid.

The appearance of a Russian party at Tachienlu is enough to set all the tongues on this border a-going.

At a protracted and very enjoyable dinner with the city officials here last evening it was my good fortune to sit beside a much travelled official who has eyes that see. For some six years he has been stationed on the Russo-Chinese frontier in Ili and his remarks regarding Russian methods of extending her territory there are to the point and quite characteristic I should say of both Russian and Chinese methods.

At first, said the garrulous official, we got together and delimited the frontier—"very, very clearly," and pictured it in a map "That's settled!" But the Russians commenced to offer attractions to the Chinese peasants to emigrate and settle on their side of the boundary so clearly defined.

Free seed, for free land, oxen if necessary, and irrigation where possible. Of course the Chinese went over in shoals.

"What could we do?" asks the narrator. "We had neither free seed nor money to provide oxen. We could not do anything"—the usual resource of Chinese officialdom.

When the land on the Russian side of the border was fairly settled, the boundary-stones had a habit of moving themselves far over on to Chinese territory, so far indeed as to call for remark and expostulation from the Chinese official.

"What do you want?" demanded the Russian when complaint was made. "Do you want to fight?" "No, no," avowed the alarmed Chinese and the boundary-stones found themselves quietly settled in the new location. Then was re-enacted the drawing of the peasants, the filling in of the filched land and a new migration of the boundary-stones, followed by more protests and more yielding by the Chinese.

There is much to be said for a frontier of this kind from a Russian point of view and to observers who do not always sympathise with the dogmatism and inefficiency of Chinese officialism there is much to commend it. Why alarm Peking by announcing your intention? A formulated policy has the inconvenience of raising questions and inviting criticism. If the Russian follows his line and keeps quiet, he may rely on the guilty silence of the Chinese official, for why should Peking be informed of a circumstance that inevitably results in disgrace to the helpless informer?

As to the honesty of the proceeding—Ah! that's another story—and after all who would wish to prolong the existence of an industrious peasantry under the corruption, uncertainty and inefficiency of China in decay? To inform the Cabinets of the world that Russian frontiers have a habit of walking forward on dark nights would simply result in ink-alinging, protests, avowals, and many diplomatic evasions and lies.

Cui bono? The frontier would walk just the same, perhaps a little quicker.

H.B.M. LEGATION IN SIAM.

The *Bangkok Times* learns that, at least as regards the salaries of the Legation staff, the British Foreign Office has not perpetrated any joke in granting the prayer of the petitioners for the appointment of a Judge. The Siam establishment is to be as follows:—Minister, £1,600; Judge, £1,000; First Vice-Consul, £600; Second Vice-Consul, £450; First Assistant, £400; 2 Second Assistants, £700; 2 Acting Assistants, £600; 1 Student Interpreter, £20; Consul at Chiangmai, £600; Allowance to Assistant, who also acts as Registrar, £50.

That seems on the whole very fair. The salary of the Judge is to be £200 more than that at present given to the Consul, and the 1st Vice-Consul will also get a reasonable increase, the vote passed in March for the two Vice-Consuls being only £850. But when the Britishers of Bangkok asked for a Judge they did not imagine that they would lose their Consul. They would have thought twice before they signed the petition if they had. This is really a matter of importance especially as the office of Minister-Resident is so often vacant and it is to be hoped that the Consularship will be reinstated in the near future. There is, the *Times* hears, some hope of that being done.

FRENCH INTENTIONS RE HAINAN.

A private dispatch from Canton to a Chinese official residing here, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, gives gloomy predictions as to the fate of Hainan Island, better known to Chinese as the prefecture of Kinngchou, which the dispatch states may fall into the hands of the French unless strong opposition be made against the intended encroachment. In the latter portion of December last the French official in the South sent a dispatch to the acting Manchu Viceroy at Canton embodying certain hints, as to what the French government's intentions were concerning Hainan Island. It has now transpired that the acting Viceroy gave a somewhat confused reply to the French dispatch which might be construed in various ways according as the receivers wished to take it. This naturally encouraged the French naval authorities, who have ever since, it is alleged by deputies sent to enquire, been making preparations to acquire Hainan Island, which will give them the command of the strip of sea route between Pakhoi and the Tongking coast, as well as make the French dominant Power on the Kuangtung coast line, especially with Kuangchowwan on the said coast in their hands. It is now stated that having made their necessary preparations the French recently notified the substantive Viceroy of the Two Kuang provinces of their intentions, but received in reply an absolute refusal to sanction anything of the sort. An international appeal will probably be made against any attempt that may be made on Hainan island or any portion thereof by any foreign nationality.

THE LABOUR QUESTION IN HAWAII.

An U. S. official report contains a statement by Professor Stubbs on the labour question on the Hawaii plantations, which is reproduced in the Honolulu papers. Some remarks on Chinese immigration may be quoted:—

There has never existed any treaty or labour convention between the Government of Hawaii and the Empire of China. In early days a limited number of Chinese settled in the islands, intermarried with the natives, and by their industry and economy were generally prosperous. About 750 of them were naturalised under the monarchy. The first importation of Chinese labourers into the country took place in 1852. In 1878 the number of Chinese had risen to 5,916. During the next few years there was a steady influx of Chinese free immigrants, which finally reached alarming proportions. In the spring of 1881 the Hawaiian Government was obliged to send a dispatch to the Governor of Hongkong to stop this invasion. Again, in April, 1883, it was suddenly renewed,

and within twenty days five steamers arrived from Hongkong, bringing 2,253 Chinese passengers, followed the next month by 1,100 more, with the news that several thousand more were ready to embark. Accordingly, the Hawaiian Government sent another dispatch to the Governor of Hongkong refusing to admit any further immigration of male Chinese from that port.

Various regulations restricting Chinese immigration were enacted from time to time, until in 1886 the landing of any Chinese passenger without a passport was prohibited. The number of Chinese in the Islands had risen to 21,000, and in 1899 it is estimated to be about 27,000, of whom about 6,000 are employed on sugar plantations.

They have reclaimed many useless swamps for the cultivation of rice. Many of them are shopkeepers, market gardeners, laundrymen and fishermen. They have been truly described as industrious, persevering, frugal, peaceable, and law abiding. Their mercantile credit stands as high as that of any other nationality.

The effect of annexation to the United States will be to put an end to all assisted immigration of whatever race, and to exclude all Chinese labourers. But under the recent treaty between the United States and Japan, there is nothing to limit the free immigration of Japanese, and several companies have been formed to promote it.

The decrease of the aboriginal population has still continued, from 44,088 in 1878 to 40,014 in 1884, 34,436 in 1890 and 31,019 in 1896, the rate of decrease being about 1.6 per cent a year. At the same time the part Hawaiians, the offspring of intermarriages between Hawaiian women and men of other races, have been constantly increasing from 3,420 in 1878 to 4,218 in 1884, 6,186 in 1890, and 8,485 in 1896. All these facts point to the gradual extinction of the full-blooded Hawaiians, and the absorption of the remnant of the race by the European and Asiatic population.

HONGKONG.

Mr. Chan A Fook, one of our Chinese unofficial members of the Sanitary Board, has tendered his resignation to H.E. the Governor on a plea of want of time to devote to the duties appertaining to the position.

The following returns of the average amount of bank notes in circulation and of specie in reserve in Hongkong during May are certified by the managers of the respective Banks:—

Banks.	Average Specie in Amount.	Reserve.
Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China	2,840,858	1,500,000
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	7,957,563	5,000,000
National Bank of China, Limited	441,499	150,000
Total	\$11,239,920	6,650,000

A rumour was current on the 19th inst. that several prisoners had escaped from Victoria Gaol. On enquiry we learnt that the rumour had a very trivial foundation. The facts as given to us are these. At about two o'clock on the 19th inst. a Chinaman was seen on the roof of the gaol by a warder, who immediately raised the alarm. A muster of the prisoners showed that one was missing. A warder ascended to the roof of the prison and saw the missing man lying flat on his stomach to avoid detection. He offered no resistance when the warder apprehended him, and was led quietly back to his cell. It is believed that he climbed to where he was found by means of a pipe.

The work in connection with Messrs. Butterfield and Swire's proposed new dock at Quarry Bay is making rapid progress. The position of the dock, as is probably known, is to be on the site formerly occupied by the village of Shin Ching Wan. The contractor for the work is Tsang Kang, well-known in connection with projects of a like extensive nature. On the 16th inst. some interesting blastings were witnessed, great masses of stone and earth being displaced like so much cardboard. On an average about 1,500 tons of material is displaced each day. The blasting operations are conducted under the active supervision of Mr. W. W. tern, who takes every precaution to ensure the safety of the workmen under him.

The British storeship *Humber* left for the North on Thursday.

Mr. W. R. Seymour has been appointed Assistant Master at Queen's College.

H.M.S. *Centurion* is expected here in a few days; afterwards proceeding home with Admiral Seymour.

On the 19th inst. the Austrian cruiser *Leopard* left for Saigon. The U.S. transport *Arctura* arrived from Manila.

During the absence from the colony of the Rev. W. Bannister, Church of England Officiating Chaplain to the troops, the duties of Officiating Chaplain will be performed by the Rev. G. A. Bunbury, of St. Paul's College.

Apart from plague last week, the only cases of infectious disease reported in the Colony were:—Diphtheria, 2 in the Harbour (imported); puerperal fever, 1 (Chinese), resulting in death; small-pox, 4 (all Chinese, 3 in Victoria) with 3 deaths.

Thursday's Chinese festival was very quietly observed in Hongkong. In Canton, we hear, preparations have been made for some time past to keep the Dragon-boat fête on a larger scale than usual, in order to combine the exorcising of the plague-devils with the original intention of the day.

A coolie employed at the Hunghom Docks was killed on the 17th inst. while engaged with a number of others in removing a pump from the yard. The platform on which the pump rested gave way, and the coolie tried to catch it as it fell. The weight being too great, it knocked him down, fell on top of him, and killed him instantaneously.

The members of the Catholic Union gave a very successful and enjoyable "At Home" on Friday evening in their rooms in the Roman Catholic Mission House at Glenealy. There was a large number of members and their friends present, who seemed to have enjoyed the genial hospitality dispensed by the committee, especially by Mr. J. M. Alves, the energetic and hard-working secretary of the Union, and also the excellent music provided by not less than three amateur bands.

A meeting of Justices of the Peace was held on Thursday afternoon at the Magistracy to consider an application from Mr. Moritz Freimann, of the "Land We Live In" Hotel, 332-334, Queen's Road, for a transfer of his license to his son, Adolph Freimann. The application was granted on the condition that the applicant would find a guarantee, his previous guarantee, Mr. Theonert, manager of the Chinese Import-Export and Bank Company, having died of plague. This condition was accepted by the applicant. Mr. Hazeland, Acting Police Magistrate, presided at the meeting, the others present being Mr. Kemp, Acting Police Magistrate, and Mr. Melbourne, Chief Clerk at the Magistracy.

With a view to doing something towards lessening the risks of a further spread of the present epidemic of plague, the authorities have taken to flushing the drains in Queen's Road with sea water. The work was started on the 15th inst., and two steam fire-engines are engaged in it—one at the "Star" Ferry Company's Wharf and the other at Wanchai. A third fire-engine will commence on the 17th inst. At present the flushing of the drains is being confined to those in the central district, but it is purposed to clear them right along Queen's Road. The step is undoubtedly one in the right direction, and it is sincerely to be trusted that it will be attended by beneficial results and will be continued regularly for the present.

The report on the Peak Church during the past year, which is now issued over the signature of the Rev. F. T. Johnson, states that the church was examined a few months ago by Messrs Leigh & Orange, who reported that the building was in a very unsatisfactory condition. In view of the possibility of a new building being erected within the next few years, they recommended that only absolutely necessary repairs should be undertaken. Accordingly a new floor has been laid and the surface underneath has been concreted. The roof has been temporarily repaired, a flat wooden ceiling has been constructed, and some other minor repairs are now being made. The estimated cost of these repairs is \$465. The offerings which amount to \$433.19, show a slight decrease from the average of recent years, but there still remains a credit balance of \$619.30.

H. M. receiving-ship *Tamar* went into dock on the 20th inst.

A Chinese fitter of the *Indravelli* was killed on the 18th inst. by falling into the hold of the ship.

Sir John Carrington, Kt., C.M.G., leaves on Wednesday, 26th inst., for a three months' tour in Japan.

The resignation by Capt G. H. Potts of his commission in the Hongkong Volunteer Corps has been accepted.

The issue of Exequatur to Mr. W. A. Rublee to act as American Consul-General at Hongkong is published in the *Gazette*.

The British hospital ship *Gwalior* left the harbour on the 19th inst. for Calcutta, having on board invalids from the North.

The chartered transports *Muttra* and *Ici* are due at Hongkong from Calcutta on Tuesday, the 25th inst., en route for the North.

On the 19th inst. the British hospital ship *Gwalior* arrived from Shanghai. The British transport *Umta* left for Taku, and the German gunboat *Geier* departed for Amoy.

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation notified us on Saturday that a telegram had been received from their Singapore Branch stating that \$258,000 of the stolen notes have been recovered at Colombo.

The French cruiser *Friant*, Captain Adam, arrived in the harbour on the 15th inst. from Amoy, which port she left on the 13th instant. The *Friant* is a second class cruiser, having 24 guns, and a complement of 358.

The return of stamp revenue during the months of May, 1900 and 1901, shows a decrease for the latter month of \$1,335.81. The chief items showing improvement were:—Conveyance or assignment, \$1,533; bill of exchange or promissory note, \$602.11; broker's note, \$492.50; bill of lading, \$427.50. The main decreases were:—Probate or letters of administration, \$3,798; and adhesive stamps, \$1,299.83.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The establishment of a new Court and new Code of Laws in the Philippines is progressing favourably, the natives apparently taking great interest in the re-establishment of law and order in their country.

The *Mercury* declares that it has been known in Shanghai for several weeks that Germany intends to continue to maintain a garrison in Shanghai, not for the present, as stated in the telegrams, but permanently.

Major-General Adna Chaffee, arrived at Manila from Taku on the morning of the 5th inst. on the U.S. transport *Sumner*. General Chaffee is to relieve Major-General McArthur of the military government.

H.M.S. *Kinsha*, formerly the *Pioneer*, arrived at Shanghai from Chungking on the morning of the 11th inst., having made an excellent passage all the way. She is under the command of Lieut. George B. Powell, R.N., Captain Plant assisting in the navigation.

Mr. Gervase W. Cook, in a lengthy letter to the *Manila Times*, disputes Mr. Sawyer's (a mineral expert) assertion that there is no true coal in the Philippines, but only lignite. He says true coal has been found in the Islands of Cebu and Bataan.

The first working train of the Shantung railway reached Kaumian on the 11th inst. It is only nine weeks since the first section was opened and already twenty additional miles are in sufficient good running order to permit constructing trains to pass over it. At this rate the railway will be finished in a very short time indeed.

Several unsuccessful attempts were made at the beginning of last week to tow off the Italian cruiser *Stromboli*, which ran aground in the river about half-a-mile below the Cosmopolitan Dock, Shanghai. It was feared that the vessel would have to remain, where it was for some days, as the depth of water at high tide was decreasing daily.

We note that the French at Canton now issue French colonial stamps surcharged with the name "Canton" in Roman and Chinese characters. This is but another evidence of the exceedingly active proceedings of the French at Canton. We have reason to believe that they are busily looking after mining concessions in the neighbourhood.

The tramway to be built in the French Settlement at Shanghai is not to be electrical, but on a new system, known as the "Purrey's System," requiring special steam-boilers. The steam is to be superheated and the cars are said to be entirely free from smoke, noise, or smell. The cars are to be small, and are to attain a speed of 15 miles per hour on free roads.

General Voyron, telegraphing to Paris of the evacuation of Tientsin and Honan (P) by the French troops, reports that the Chinese authorities thanked him for the good order and tranquillity which had been maintained in the country by the French occupation. A Paris telegram announces that General Bailloud's brigade will commence its return home on the 25th inst.

According to *El Comercio*, the American government contemplates starting a special police force at Manila modelled on the famous "Carabineros" corps during the Spanish regime. The force is to be exclusive for service around the bay. The experiment is to be tried at first with 120 men, one officer and six sergeants, and to be increased according to requirement if the trial proves successful.

The annual interport races between Yokohama and Kobe were held at Kobe on the 8th and 9th inst. On the first day Kobe was successful in securing the interport pairs, while Yokohama won the fours. On the second day, in the double sculls the Kobe crew proved the victors after a good struggle by seven lengths. The races for the single sculls proved a fiasco, the Yokohama representative finishing alone.

An *Asahi* telegram of the 5th inst. says:—A severe thunder and rain storm was experienced in Peking last night and three buildings in the Imperial palace were struck by lightning, and caught fire. The fire was put out this morning at 2 o'clock. One battalion of Japanese and 20 Americans rendered valuable service in putting out the fire. The troops of other powers were unable to obtain admission as the gates were closed.

The new convention between Spain and Japan provides that each of the contracting parties shall accord to the other most-favoured nation treatment in respect of import and export duties except so far as relates to the special advantages accorded by Spain to Portugal. The convention is to remain in operation for five years, and, after that period has elapsed, may be terminated by either of the contracting parties upon a notice of twelve months.

H.E. Sheng, Director-General of Telegraphs, states the *Universal Gazette*, has begun building a cable line from Laohokou, Hupoh, along the Hsiang river up to Hsian, as a supplement to the land telegraph, which cannot always be relied upon to remain free from obstruction or stoppage. The money for the construction of the new cable is to be defrayed by the Telegraph Administration and will not be charged to the Government at all, it being intended as "a present" to the Government from the Telegraph Administration.

Field Marshal Count von Waldersee was received in audience by the Emperor of Japan on the 11th inst. in the Ho-o Hall at Tokyo, and subsequently was invited to dine at the Palace. Count von Waldersee having lost his ceremonial uniform in the fire at the Winter Palace, Peking, special permission was granted for him to attend the audience in his ordinary uniform. A Gifu despatch to the *Mainichi* states that Count von Waldersee is expected to visit the town on his way back to Kobe as he wishes to see the famous cormorant fishing in the Nagaragawa. The local authorities, however, had not received any intimation in regard to a visit.

The *Ostasiatische Lloyd* of the 14th inst. in a lengthy article absolves General Bailloud of all blame for having prevented his troops, which joined the German contingent in an expedition to the Great Wall against General Liu, of firing even a single shot, saying that it has now been ascertained upon unimpeachable authority that General Bailloud was constrained to act as he did, as he had received a telegram from Paris while on his way to join the German expeditionary force, instructing him not to fight against General Liu under any consideration. The writer of the article gives great praise to the French General for his previous courteous behaviour and willing co-operation.

One of the two Chinese passengers sent to the Isolation Hospital on the arrival of the *Empress of China* at Nagasaki developed symptoms of bubonic plague.

On the arrival of the *Empress of China* at Nagasaki, two Chinese plague suspects were sent off to the Isolation Hospital, and the vessel herself was quarantined for ten days. The Chinese case landed at Shanghai from the *Empress* having proved to be plague, the Japanese authorities determined on vigorous measures. One of the suspects has since developed plague.

The reason why the warrants issued by the Nagasaki police for the arrest of the captain of the R. V. F. steamer *Vladimir* and the surgeon of the *Saratov* were withdrawn is that the fact has been brought to light that the men who were arrested at the time of the offence were a Russian officer holding the rank of captain and a surgeon, who were passengers on the above-named vessels; and that consequently the captain of the *Vladimir* and the surgeon of the *Saratov* were not connected with the offence for which they had been convicted.

The suicide is reported from Shanghai on the 14th inst. of Mr. A. F. Schuttel, secretary of the Club Concordia. It appears that he had been summoned twice to appear before the German Consular Court to answer a charge of embezzlement preferred against him by the Committee of the said Club. He entered no appearance to both of the summonses, so that a warrant was issued for his arrest. The deceased appeared to be on the lookout, for, as soon as he spied the detective, he rushed to the bath-room where he shot himself through the heart. Death was instantaneous. The most noteworthy fact connected with this sad affair is that deceased is the third secretary of the Club who had committed or attempted to commit suicide, his immediate predecessor, Albrecht, having shot himself in Hongkong after embezzling the Club's funds, while Mr. Kluth, Albrecht's predecessor committed suicide by chloroforming himself in his office in the Club.

The shooting affray at Peking which was reported by our correspondent recently, occurred as follows:—An American sentry had been posted at the western extremity of Legation Street, close to the Chien-men, where the new American Legation is being built. That portion of Legation Street was being newly macadamised and rolled, and a barricade was put up, and the sentry posted to warn people not to ride over the newly-metalled road, only pedestrians being allowed to pass. A German officer rode up and went through the barricade, knocking over both barricade and sentry. The American picked himself up and also picked up his rifle, and moreover levelled it at the officer and discharged it. The shot missed the officer, but pursued its course half-way down Legation Street, finally lodging in the leg of the German sentry guarding the Kaiserliche Deutsche Legation. The American received one month's imprisonment and was fined one month's pay, presumably for hitting the wrong man.—*New Press*.

The failure of the camphor monopoly in Formosa is supposed to be caused by the unexpected increase in the production of the staple in the interior of Japan, with the result that the markets in Japan and abroad have been considerably affected. It was therefore thought necessary by the last Cabinet to extend the monopoly to Japan, so as to maintain the price of the staple and protect the monopoly in Formosa. A proposal to this effect was agreed to by the last Cabinet. Viscount Katsura, the Premier of the new Cabinet, is reported to take special interest in the finances of the territory, as he was for a time the Governor-General of Formosa, and it is believed he will take up the proposal of the last Cabinet and favour the extension of the camphor monopoly to Japan. The *Kobe Chronicle* says:—It is stated that if such a Monopoly Bill is passed, the export of camphor from Japan will be undertaken by the Agriculture and Commerce Department; and that Monopoly Offices will be established at Nagasaki and Kobe, the head office being at Kobe. The purchase price of camphor will be fixed at 75 yen per picul for Kobe, and 65 yen per picul for Nagasaki, while the sale price will be 85 yen per picul. From these particulars it would appear the Government has practically decided to introduce such a Bill.

During the hearing of the Crisp case at the Supreme Court on Thursday, a Chinese witness was asked if he was a friend of Chung Shun Koo, the complainant; "I am not," he energetically replied, "and I don't want to be his friend. He has got a black heart." "What makes you think he has a black heart?" asked the Acting Attorney-General. "He raised my rent without giving me notice," replied the witness, "and if that doesn't show a black heart, I don't know what does." "In that case," observed the Chief Justice, "there are a good many black hearts in the colony."

The *Bangkok Times* of the 6th inst. says:—We regret to have to record the death of an old resident, Capt. W. Lang, which took place last evening from cholera. Mr. Lang was formerly in the Royal Siamese Navy, but resigned his position there some years ago, afterwards joining the staff of the Opium Farm. Latterly he was engaged on the new railway to Petchaburi, and was on his way down to Bangkok when he was seized with cholera, death taking place last evening. The deceased was about fifty years of age, and had resided in Siam for over a quarter of a century.

The proposal to make a ship canal across the Isthmus to Kra has been brought forward on several occasions, says the *Courrier d'Haiphong*. Surveys have been undertaken, and companies have been formed to take up the preliminary studies. Then silence has fallen on the proposal, and the Isthmus of Kra, still inviolate, has sunk into forgetfulness. Perhaps the failure of the Panama Canal has occurred to the capitalists at the psychological moment when a call had to be made for funds. Perhaps powerful foreign influences have been interposed. To cut the Isthmus of Kra is to destroy the prosperous port of Singapore.

The German authorities at Kiaochau, according to the *Deutsch-Asiatische Waite*, have refused to furnish the above paper with police court reports, in order to, as the editor puts it, impress his countrymen at home with the belief that everything is secure in the new German territory, and that the Chinese are perfect angels, only lacking wings; "a misrepresentation," he continues, "we as representative of the free and independent press of Germany will do our best to frustrate. We shall make our own police court reports, and, to commence, may state that four executions took place during the last week, and in the surrounding villages a virulent sort of typhoid prevails."

Our Portsmouth correspondent, under date, 17th May, writes that "orders were issued on the 15th, that the new armoured cruiser *Cressy* is to commission at Portsmouth, on the 28th inst., to replace the battleship *Centurion* on the China Station. By this exchange the British fleet in the Far East will be strengthened by the addition of a very useful cruiser—undoubtedly the smartest in those waters. The *Glory* will fill the battleship vacancy caused in our China fleet by the withdrawal of the *Centurion*, and the *Cressy* will consequently be an additional ship. This is a quiet way of increasing our Naval strength in China waters. This will be the *Cressy's* maiden commission, for as yet she is barely ready for sea. She is the first one to hoist the pennant of a new type of armoured cruisers that represent a considerable advance upon the various types of fast cruisers that preceded them. Not only has the *Cressy* a speed of 21 knots, and is well armoured, but she is adequately armed. Fore and aft she carries the latest 9.2 on hydraulic mountings, with what practically amounts to barbette protection for the men working it. The vessel also has the newest pattern 6 inch guns, which are also on improved mountings, and in protected positions."

A Dragon-boat which had been practicing for about a week at Canton, in view of the great festival which was celebrated on Thursday, capsized, and sixty lives were lost. The boat belonged to a little village two and a half miles this side of Canton and contained 10 persons. As they were attempting to get through the first barrier in the front reach of the river together with a big Hongkong and Canton passenger-steamer, the backwash of the latter swamped the boat. All occupants were precipitated into the river. Assistance was at once rendered, but only thirty were rescued. Some sixty are said to have been drowned. So far forty bodies have been recovered.

Max O'Rell (M. Paul Blonet) is said to be contemplating a lecturing tour in Japan.

Lieutenant Higgon, Royal Welch Fusiliers, has proceeded to Weihaiwei to take up the appointment of Staff-Captain at that station.

Mr. E. H. Fraser, Acting Consul-General at Hankow, who recently made a trip to Japan for his health, has been so ill at Yokohama that he has been ordered home at once.

Straits papers announce the sudden and unexpected death of Mr. Arthur Somerville, of the firm of Paterson, Simons & Co., who died at Broadfields, Singapore, on the evening of the 7th inst.

The enlistment of Filipinos and the commissioning of first and second lieutenants for the twelve native regiments to be raised in the Philippines have commenced.

The direct line of telegraph laid by the Korean Government between Masampo and Fusan was completed on the 28th of May, and opened to traffic on the 31st of that month.

A Shanghai paper notes that H.M.S. *Kinsha* is the only vessel in the British navy with a black funnel. It is presumed that she will adopt the regulation colour before she goes up the Yangtze again.

The following appointments were made last month at the Admiralty:—Commanders.—R. G. Gregory, to the *Eclipse*; Midshipmen.—M. K. Horton and M. C. Brotherton, to the *Eclipse*, undated; R. Bacchus and J. L. C. Clark, to the *Eclipse*, to date May 30; Paymaster G. L. Clarke, to the *Eclipse*, to date May 30; Assistant Paymaster B. W. G. Cook, to the *Eclipse*, to date May 30.

In wiring about the reply of the Chinese Commissioners to the Indemnity demands, Dr. Morrison notes that for the first time in the history of diplomatic relations with the Chinese, the despatch was accompanied by a French translation. The precedent, if followed, will greatly facilitate communication, though it would have to be understood which language was to rule in case of dispute.

The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have awarded the conspicuous gallantry medal to the under-mentioned petty officers and men of the Royal Navy, in connection with the recent operations in China:—W. J. Christmas, petty officer, second class; H. Swannell, leading signal-man; W. Parsonage, able seaman; P. Golden, able seaman; E. Whibley, ordinary seaman; T. Gardner, sick-berth steward.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1900-1	1899-00
Shanghai	691,841	1,655,646
Amoy	16,439,090	—
Foochow	—	—
	17,130,931	1,655,646

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED KINGDOM AND CONTINENT.

	1900-1	1899-00
	lbs.	lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai ...	—	—
Amoy	637,355	—
Foochow	—	—
Canton	—	—
	637,355	—

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA

	1899-1900	1898-99
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai and Hankow...	7,049,527	7,830,153

CAMPOR.

HONGKONG 21st, June.—No arrivals.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 21st June.—The downward tendency continues, the market being dull. Quotations are:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White.....	\$8.70 to \$8.75 per cwt.
do. " 2, White.....	7.95 to 8.00 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown ...	5.70 to 5.75 "
do. " 2, Brown ...	5.55 to 5.60 "
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	8.00 to 8.65 "
do. " 1, White.....	7.75 to 7.80 "
Swatow, No. 1, Brown ...	5.60 to 5.65 "
do. " 2, Brown ...	5.45 to 5.50 "
Foochow Sugar Candy	13.45 to 13.50 "
Shekloong "	12.75 to 12.80 "

RICE.

HONGKONG, 21st June.—Some demands having come from the mainland, prices are consequently advancing. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary.....	\$2.35 to 2.40
Round, Good quality	3.55 to 3.60
Long	3.75 to 3.80
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	2.40 to 2.45
Garden, " No. 1	3.30 to 3.35
White.....	4.05 to 4.10
Fine Cargo	4.30 to 4.35

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per *Dardanus*, sailed on the 11th June. Tea 99 matted boxes (particulars unknown):—2,013 bales hemp, 50 bales waste silk, 50 bales canes, 50 cases preserves, 10 rolls matting, 167 cases Chinaware, 10 cases p. l. fans, 22 cases blackwoodware, 8 cases bristles, 6 cases paper baskets, 1 case cigars, 36 pkgs. sundries. For London opt. Manchester:—100 bales waste silk. For London opt. Goole:—100 bales waste silk. For London opt. Hamburg:—327 bales canes.

Per P. & O. steamer *Socotra*, sailed on the 15th June. For London opt. Manchester:—110 bales waste silk. For London opt. Goole:—150 bales waste silk. For London:—1,903 pkgs. firecrackers, 843 bales hemp from Manila, 137 bales pierced cocoons, 461 rolls mats and matting, 94 boxes tea from Amoy, 75 bales canes, 83 cases Chinaware, 34 cases woodware, 44 cases blackwoodware, 40 cases private effects, 10 cases h'air, 7 cases-stores, 1 case silk. For Gibraltar:—1 case curios.

Per Imperial German Mail steamer *Hamburg*, sailed on 13th June. For Colombo:—34 rolls matting. For Suez:—8 cases tea. For Smyrna:—10 cases essential oil. For Beyrouh, 50 boxes cassia. For Odessa:—100 boxes cassia. For Genoa:—452 bales raw silk, 100 boxes palmeaffans, 100 boxes waste silk, 10 boxes essential oil, 1 box silkpiecegoods. For Naples:—1 case sundries. For Trieste:—2 cases metals. For New York:—2 boxes silkpiecegoods, 1 box grass cloth. For Barcelona:—100 boxes cassia. For Antwerp:—50 cases rifles, 35 bales canes, 27 cases Chinaware, 4 cases ginger, 3 cases blackwoodware, 2 cases gongs. For Amsterdam:—50 boxes cassia, 38 cases Chinaware, 25 cases preserves. For Amsterdam/Rotterdam:—6 cases preserves. For Rotterdam:—24 boxes Chinaware, 3 cases cigars. For Bremerhaven:—2 cases sundries. For Bremen:—27 pkgs. canes. For London:—338 rolls Matting, 25 bales raw silk. For Hamburg:—63 bales canes, 5 boxes feathers, 4 cases Blackwoodware, 3 cases cigars, 1 case Silk, 1 case cartoon. For Copenhagen:—5 pkgs. matting.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 21st June.—Malwa:—Business continued on a limited scale. Quotations are:—

New.....	at \$840
2 Years'.....	" 850
3 ".....	" 860
4/5 ".....	" 880

Bengal:—Ruled very quiet and prices have also declined. We close Old Patna at \$965, Old Benares \$950 and New Benares \$950 quiet and with a declining tendency. A few chests of New Patna fetched \$980/990.

Persian.—The Japanese have resumed buying, and a fair quantity of good quality drug changed hands at \$815.

STOCK.

Patna	1,916
Benares	807
Malwa	719½
Persian	2,129

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 21st June.—No change. Superior in demand; medium and inferior more or less neglected. Stock, about 6,000 b. les.

Bombay,	18.00 to 19.00 picul
Bengal (New), Rangoon,	18.00 to 22.00 "
and Dacca,	"
Shanghai and Japanese,	22.00 to 24.00 "
Tungchow and Ningpo,	22.00 to 24.00 "
Sale: 900 bales.	

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee says in his Report, dated Hongkong, 21st June.—As advised in last report, the large business then being done in Shanghai has re-acted beneficially on our market here, and we have to report considerable settlements at prices which show an advance of \$1 to \$3 per bale. The enquiry has been purely speculative, as at the moment there is nothing of importance being done in the interior, but some of our dealers anticipate a brisk summer trade and are laying in stock to meet the country demand next month before prices go up further. At the close the market shows signs of an upward tendency and we look for a further rise in prices of best Nos. 10s. and 20s. The improvement reported from Bombay has been confirmed, and latest wire advices quote annas 5 and annas 5½ for best descriptions of No. 10s. and No. 20s. respectively. Receipts during the interval have been moderate, and with larger off-takes our estimate of stocks shows a large decrease on last figures.

Local Mill quotations are strong, but there is nothing doing, the few remaining bales in stock having been sent on to Shanghai.

Japanese Spinings are easier and about 800 bales Nos. 16s. and 20s. have changed hands during the interval, on the basis of \$104 to \$106 for the former and \$104 to \$108 for the latter, market closing unsteady.

Raw Cotton.—Indian descriptions are steady, but experiencing very little demand, the reported business of the fortnight only amounting to 400 bales machine-ginned Bengal at from \$19½ to \$20½, leaving an estimated unsold stock of 5,500 bales on the market. There has been nothing doing in China cotton, stock about 700 bales (small). Quotations are:—Indian \$15 to \$21, and China \$22 to \$23½.

Exchange on India has continued steady throughout and close to-day at Rs. 147½ for T/T and Rs. 147½ for Post. On Shanghai 72½ and on Yokohama 3½ per cent. premium.

The undernoted business in imported and local spinings is reported from Shanghai during the week ending 8th instant, viz:—

Indian.—Total sales 3,759 bales, comprising 2,097 bales No. 10s., 525 bales No. 12s., 615 bales No. 16s. and 522 bales No. 20s., prices continuing firm and market closing strong. Estimated unsold stock about 30,000 bales.

Japanese.—Prices are easier. Total sales about 4,000 bales both spot and forward delivery, on the basis of Tls. 74½ to 77½ for No. 16s. and Tls. 76½ to 78½ for No. 20s., market closing weak and declining in sympathy with Japan.

Local.—Lower prices have stimulated demand both real and speculative, and sales of about 8,000 bales are reported on the basis of Tls. 68½ to 69 for No. 10s., Tls. 69½ to 70½ for No. 12s., Tls. 17 to 22½ for No. 14s., and Tls. 73½ to 75 for No. 16s., market closing weak and unsteady.

COALS.

HONGKONG, 21st June.—Small retail business doing in Japanese. Australian and Welsh are neglected

Cardiff	\$22.00 to 23.00 ex ship nominal
Australian	\$11.00 to 12.00 ex godown, nominal
Yubari Lump	\$11.50 to 12.00 ex godown, nominal
Miki Lump.....	\$10. ex ship
Moji Lump	\$7.00 to \$9.50 ex ship, steady
Hongay double	10.50 ex godown
screened	"
Hongay Lump.....	8.50 ex ship
Hongay Dust	5.50 "
Briquettes	14.50 "

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 21st June.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—*Bombay Yarn*: 2,650 bales No. 10 at \$79 to \$89, 950 bales No. 12 at \$87 to \$90, 800 bales No. 16 at \$85 to \$96, 1,500 bales No. 20 at \$99.50 to \$108. *White Shirtings*: 20 pieces No. 300 at \$4, 1,500 pieces No. 2 at \$6.55, 300 pieces Gold Tiger at \$7.20, 1,500 pieces No. 1 at \$6.55. *Grey Shirtings*: 600 pieces 8½ lbs. 3 Dogs at \$3.60, 1,000 pieces 10 lbs. Red 5 Mandarin at \$5.75, 1,000 pieces 10 lbs. Red 5 Mandarin at \$3.75. *Black Velveteens*: 100 pieces at \$21.25, 240 bales at \$21.25 per yard. *Metals*.—4,000 bundles small Round Red Lion at \$4.67½ to arrive.

COTTON YARN—

Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.....	\$77.00 to \$110.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24.....	114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24.....	120.00 to 128.00
" 28 to 32.....	136.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42.....	155.00 to 170.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.05 to 2.15
7 lbs.	2.20 to 2.35
8.4 lbs.	2.70 to 3.25
9 to 10 lbs.	3.35 to 4.45
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.35 to 2.55
58 to 60 "	3.05 to 3.80
64 to 66 "	4.05 to 5.40
Fine	5.10 to 7.40
Book-folds	4.05 to 6.10
Victoria Lawns—12 yards.....	0.73 to 1.20
T-Cloths—61bs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	1.60 to 1.77½
71bs. (32 "), "	1.80 to 2.10
61bs. (32 "), Mexs.	1.80 to 2.00
71bs. (32 "), "	2.70 to 3.35
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.)	2.75 to 3.25
Drills, English—40yds., 14 to }	4.00 to 6.75
16 lbs.	"

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to }	1.55 to 5.00
8 lbs.	"
Brocades—Dyed	— " —
Chintzes—Assorted	0.08½ to 0.17
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.22½ to 0.60
Velveteens—18 in.	0.20 to 0.22½

WOOLENS—

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.36 to 2.50
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.....	0.80 to 1.50
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths.....	1.25 to 2.50
Long Ells—Scarlet.....	6.40 to 10.00
Assorted.....	6.50 to 10.10
Camlets—Assorted.....	12.50 to 32.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches }	8.00 to 20.00
Assorted }	"
Orleans—Plain	8.50 to 10.00
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	4.00 to 18.00

METALS—

Iron—Nail Rod	4.25 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.)	4.20 to —
Swedish Bar	6.75 to —
Small Round Rod	4.75 to —
Hoop ½ to 1½ in.	5.25 to —
Wire 15/25	8.00 to —
Old Wire Rope	2.50 to —
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop	8.25 to —
Australian	8.00 to —
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/20 oz.	41.00 to —
Vivian's 14/20 oz.	40.50 to —
Elliot's 14/20 oz.	40.25 to —
Composition Nails.....	63.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs.....	42.00 to —
Tin.....	69.50 to —
Tin-Plates	7.20 to —
Steel ½ to ¾	5.75 to —
New Chops 14/20 oz.	— to —

SUNDRIES—

Quicksilver	167.00 to —
Window Glass	5.75 to —
Kerosene Oil.....	2.15 to —

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

FRIDAY, 21st June.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/11½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/0½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.47½
Credits, 4 months' sight	2.51
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	2.00½
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	47½
Credits, 60 days' sight	48½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	147½
Bank, on demand	147½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	147½
Bank, on demand	147½

ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	72½
Private, 30 days' sight.....	73½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	4½
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	2½
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	½
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	118
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand.....	2½
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	2½
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	59½
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	10.07
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	52.25
BAR SILVER per oz.	27½

SHARE REPORT.

HONGKONG, 21st June.—Since the date of our last report a good general business has been transacted, and we close with enquiries for many of the principal stocks. Rates have ruled somewhat erratic owing to the near approach of the June settlement.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have been placed at 387½ per cent. premium, and close with probable buyers at the rate. The London quotation has advanced to £81. 10s. 0d. Nationals and Bank of China are unchanged.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions are quiet and without business at \$340. China Traders are wanted at \$60. North Chinas are enquired for at Tls. 180. Yangtszes have receded to \$120, at which sales are reported. Cantons are offering at \$180.

FIRE INSURANCES.—In Hongkong Fires a forced sale is reported at \$340, but in the open market it is doubtful if shares are obtainable under \$350. China Fires have been done at the reduced rate of \$82½, and more shares are wanted.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have ruled quiet, and close steady at \$35. Indo-Chinas have been in strong request and close with buyers at \$150. Douglases have been placed at \$56, at which a few more shares are offering. Star Ferries are enquired for at \$23 and \$9 for the old and new shares respectively. Shell Transports have been placed at £2. 12s. 6d. China-Manilas have been sold at \$62 and \$52 for the old and new shares respectively.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have been placed at \$144 and \$145, and the market closes firm at the latter rate. Luzons have declined to \$36.

MINING.—Punjoms have continued to decline, and close with sellers at \$6. Jelebus are offering at \$4½. Raubs have been disposed of at varying rates, and close with sellers at \$12.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have ruled weak, and close with sellers at \$320. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have weakened to \$104, at which there are sellers. Wanchais and New Amoy Docks are unchanged and without business.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been placed at \$199 and \$199½, and the market rules firm at the latter rate. Hongkong Hotels are wanted at \$127. Kowloon Lands, West Points, and Humphreys Estates are quiet and without business.

COTTON MILLS.—The only change to report is a small enquiry for Hongkong Cottons at \$8.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Manila Investments are offering at \$56½. Green Island Cements have been placed at \$19½ and \$19½. Hongkong Ropes have been sold at \$175, and more shares are obtainable. Ices have improved to \$180, at which sales have been made. Tramways are wanted at \$235. Campbell Moores are enquired for at \$20 ex dividend of \$2 paid on the 18th instant.

CIGARS.—Tobacco Trusts have been sold at \$6½, and further shares are obtainable. Alhambras are offering at \$1,500.

MEMOS.—Hongkong Cotton Spinning and Weaving Company, Limited, annual meeting of shareholders on the 29th instant. Hongkong Electric Company, Limited, annual meeting of shareholders on the 6th July, transfer books closed from the 22nd instant.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	(387½ p.ct.prm. = \$809.37. L'don, £61. 10s.
China & Japan, ordy.	£4	£1.
Do. deferred	£1	£5 5s.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	£8	\$27, buyers
B. Shares	£8	\$27, buyers
Four. Shares...	£1	\$15, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A. ...	£1	\$1.10.
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$20 ex div. buyers
China-Borneo Co., Ltd	\$15	\$36, sales
China Light & Power } Co., Ltd. }	\$20	20, nominal
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9.85, buyers
China Sugar	\$100	\$145.
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited...	\$500	\$1,500, sellers
Philippine Tobacco } Invest. Co., Ltd. }	\$50	\$60, buyers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 50.
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 40.
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 55.
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 325.
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 25.
Hongkong	\$100	\$8, buyers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$7½, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$55, sellers
Green Island Cement...	\$10	\$19½, sellers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$50.
Hongkong & C. Gas	£10	\$135, buyers
Hongkong Electric }	\$10	\$12½, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways }	\$5	\$6½, buyers
Hk. Steam Water }	\$100	\$235, buyers
boat Co., Ltd. }	\$5	\$7½, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$127, buyers
Hongkong Ice.....	\$25	\$180, sales
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$104, sellers
Hongkong Rope.....	\$50	\$175, sales & selles.
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$320, sellers
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$180, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$82½, buyers
China Traders'	\$25	\$60, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$350.
North China	£25	Tls. 180, buyers
Straits	\$20	nominal.
Union	\$50	\$340.
Yangtze	\$60	\$120, sales
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$199½, buyers
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	\$13½, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$30.
West Point Building	\$50	\$54.
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$36, sellers
Manila Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$56½, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$325.
Jelebu	\$5	\$4½, sellers
Queen's Mines, Ltd.	25c.	3 cents, sellers
Olivers Mines, A.	\$5	\$1½, sellers
Do. B.	\$4½	\$1½, sellers
Punjom	\$9	\$6, sellers
Do. Preference.....	\$1	\$1.25.
Raubs	18	\$12, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$22½.
Oriente Hotel, Manila	\$50	\$70.
Robinson Piano Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$50, nominal
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila ...	\$50	\$62, sales
China Mutual Pref.	\$40	\$52, sales
China Ordinary	£10	£12.
Do.	£5	£7.
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$56, sellers
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$35, sellers
Indo-China S. N.	£10	\$150, buyers
Shell Transport and } Trading Co. }	£1	£2. 12s. 6d. sales
Star Ferry	\$10	\$23, buyers
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	\$9, buyers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$11½, sellers
Do.	\$10	\$20.
Wanchai Warehouse...	\$37½	nominal.
Watkins, Ltd.	\$10	\$9½, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$15½, sellers
Universal Trading } Co., Ltd. }	\$5	\$10½, buyers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHANGHAI, 12th June (From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report). BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Shares were sold locally at 395 per cent prem. for July delivery; cash shares are wanted. National

Bank shares are in request. INSURANCE.—MARINE.—North Chinas were placed at Tls. 192.50; Unions and China Traders are wanted; Cantons are offering. FIRE.—Chinas are offering; Hongkongs have sellers at \$355. SHIPPING.—Indo-China S. N. Co.—The arrival of news of the dividend, which is announced at 6 per cent. and bonus of 4 per cent. (or 10 per cent. in all), on 8th inst. caused an immediate spurt in the market, and a large quantity of shares changed hands for cash and forward delivery; business has been done at advancing rates up to Tls. 108 for cash, the market closing with sellers at this figure. The following settlements have been made:—Tls. 100 to 109 for 29th inst., 102 to 109.50 for July, 110 for 10th August, 109 for 31st August, 108, 112, 115 and 112.50 for October. Shell Transport shares are offering. SUGARS.—Peraks and Chinas are offering. MINING.—Raub Mining Co.—Heavy settlements in Singapore for end of this month and the report of an expert on the condition of the Mines, which could bear a somewhat unfavourable construction, brought out shares which were let go at \$15.50. Kaiping Mining shares sold at Tls. 240 to 250 and are wanted at latter figure. Punjoms are offering. Sheridan Mining Co., Ltd. (in liq.) advertise a meeting of shareholders for 25th of July to consider the accounts of the winding up of the Company and certain resolutions. DOCKS, WHARVES & GODOWNS.—S. C. Farnham, Boyd and Co., Ltd. The market is somewhat firmer and up to Tls. 285 was paid for cash shares and 290 for end of the month; shares are on offer at these rates. The following are the week's settlements:—280, 285, 265, 270, 287.50, and 290 for 29th inst., 287.50, 275, 280, 282.50, 285, 280, 285, 290, 295 for August, 297.50 for September. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Co.—Shares were placed for July at Tls. 325 and for August at 332.50 and are offering. LANDS.—Weihaiwei Land shares fetched Tls. 15. Humphreys Estate shares sold at \$14 and are offering. INDUSTRIAL.—Gas shares are offering; Major Bros. are wanted; In Cotton Mills, Soy Chees are offering and Internationals and Yah Loongs are wanted. Ice Co., Flour Mill and Moutrie and Co. shares are offering; Green Island Cement shares sold at \$20 and \$19 for cash and \$20.50 for 29th inst. and are on offer. TUGS AND CARGO BOATS.—Taku Tug Boat shares are on offer. Cargo Boats sold at Tls. 260 for cash. MISCELLANEOUS.—Sumatra Tobacco shares receded to Tls. 45 cash; shares are offering. Langkat Tobacco Co.—Cash sales are reported at Tls. 345 to 342.50, market closing quiet but steady. The following settlements were made:—350 for 29th inst., 355 for July, 362.50 for September, 370 for October and 385 for December. Horse Bazaar and Central Stores shares are wanted; Hall and Holtz shares changed hands at \$34 add are offering; China Provident Loan and Mortgage Co. shares sold at \$9.75.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 21st June.—The volume of business transacted during the period under review is larger than that of the preceding fortnight. From Saigon to Hongkong, 24 cents is obtainable for small carriers; to Java, 30 cents firm; to Philippines, 44 cents per picul one port. Bangkok to Hongkong, 30 and 35 cents has been paid. Java to this, 40 cents per picul is offered for wet sugar and 27½ cents per picul dry. Newchwang to Canton, 40 cents per picul nominal. Coal freights.—Moji to this, \$2.70; to Singapore, \$3.20 per ton. Sailing vessels.—The American ship *Susquehanna* has been chartered to load here for New York, rate private.

The following are the settlements:—

Sussex—British barque, 1,212 tons, proceeds Portland (Oregon) in ballast.

Susquehanna—American ship, 2,501 tons, hence to New York, private terms.

Cassius—German steamer, 1,627 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2.80 per ton.

Flandria—German steamer, 1,277 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2.70 per ton.

Onsang—British steamer, 1,767 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2.70 per ton.

Macedonia—British steamer, 1,045 tons, Kuchinotsu to Hongkong, \$2.60 per ton.

Hipsang—British steamer, 1,040 tons, Kuchinotsu to Hongkong, \$2.60 per ton.

A China Navigation Co.'s steamer, Hongay to Nagasaki, \$3.50 per ton.

Taksang—British steamer, 977 tons, three trips Bangkok to Hongkong, 30 and 35 cents per picul.

Marie Jelebu—German steamer, 1,771 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 23 cents per picul.

Lombard—British steamer, 1,658 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, (50,000 piculs) 22½ cents per picul.

Pakshan—British steamer, 1,235 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 23 cents per picul.

Tygm—Norwegian steamer, 710 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 24 cents per picul.
Sihan—British steamer, 845 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 24 cents per picul.
Amigo—German steamer, 822 tons, Saigon to Iloilo, 42 cents per picul.
Progress—German steamer, 799 tons, Saigon to Iloilo, 45 cents per picul.
Esmeralda—British steamer, 966 tons, Saigon to Manila, 40 cents per picul.
Brand—Norwegian steamer, 1,519 tons, Saigon to Philippines, 40 cents one port, 43 cents per picul two ports.
Babelsberg—German steamer, 1,370 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines (35,000 piculs), 11 cents per picul.
Deuteros—German steamer, 1,001 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 43 cents, two ports 46 cents per picul.
Ichang—British steamer, 1,240 tons, Saigon to one port north coast Java, 38 cents per picul.
Kwangse—British steamer, 1,240 tons, Saigon to one port north coast Java, 38 cents per picul.
Tritos—German steamer, 1,033 tons, Saigon to one port north coast Java, 39 cents per picul.
Hansa—German steamer, 1,201 tons, Saigon to one port north coast Java, 38 cents per picul.
Benlarig—British steamer, 1,453 tons, Saigon to one port north coast Java (35,000 piculs), 39 cents per picul.
Dunav—Australian steamer, 1,004 tons, Singapore to Shanghai, \$16,000 in full.
Fel Ching—British steamer, monthly, 2 months, at \$6,750 per month.
Toonan—American steamer, 942 tons, monthly, 2 months, at \$6,500 per month.
Tritos—German steamer, 1,033 tons, monthly, 3 months (re-charter), \$9,000 per month.
Picciola—German steamer, 875 tons, monthly, 12 months, at \$5,825 per month.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR ANTWERP.—*Glenes* (str.), *Hitachi Maru* (str.).
 FOR LONDON.—*Parramatta* (str.), *Japan* (str.), *Glenagarry* (str.), *Alcinous* (str.), *Machaon* (str.), *Glenesly* (str.), *Prometheus* (str.), *Hitachi Maru* (str.).
 FOR LIVERPOOL.—*Glaucus* (str.).
 FOR MARSEILLES.—*Sydney* (str.), *Hitachi Maru* (str.).
 FOR BREMEN.—*Sachsen* (str.), *Sambia* (str.).
 FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—*Sambia* (str.), *Wuersburg* (str.), *Nurnberg* (str.), *Acilia* (str.).
 FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—*Duke of Fife* (str.), *Riojun Maru* (str.).
 FOR VANCOUVER.—*Empress of India* (str.), *Tartar* (str.).
 FOR SAN FRANCISCO.—*America Maru* (str.), *Coptic* (str.).
 FOR NEW YORK.—*Lowther Castle* (str.), *Indrani* (str.), *Arara* (str.), *Glenartney* (str.), *L. Schepp*.
 FOR SAN DIEGO.—*Belgian King* (str.).
 FOR AUSTRALIAN PORTS.—*Rosetta Maru* (str.), *Taiwan* (str.), *Airlie* (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

ARRIVALS.

June—
 16, *Charterhouse*, British str., from Straits.
 16, *Hongkong*, French str., from Haiphong.
 16, *Kashing*, British str., from Chinkiang.
 16, *Lysemoon*, German str., from Shanghai.
 16, *Taksang*, British str., from Bangkok.
 16, *Maria Valerie*, Austrian str., from Trieste.
 16, *Thales*, British str., from Swatow.
 17, *Pakshan*, British str., from Saigon.
 17, *Empress of India*, Brit. str., from Vancouver.
 17, *Devonshire*, British str., from New York.
 17, *Cheangchow*, British str., from Singapore.
 17, *Kumsang*, British str., from Calcutta.
 17, *Elita Nossack*, Ger. str., from Chinkiang.
 17, *Hunan*, British str., from Chinkiang.
 18, *Choyang*, British str., from Shanghai.
 18, *Taisang*, British str., from Canton.
 18, *Kwanglee*, British str., from Shanghai.
 18, *Chinkiang*, British str., from Wuhu.
 18, *Kohsichang*, German str., from Bangkok.
 18, *Whampoa*, British str., from Amoy.
 18, *Sado Maru*, Japanese str., from Singapore.
 18, *Yuensang*, British str., from Manila.
 18, *Yawata Maru*, Jap. str., from Australia.
 18, *Penarth*, British str., from New Zealand.
 18, *Gwalior*, British hospital ship, from S'hai.
 18, *J. Diederichsen*, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 18, *Babelsberg*, British str., from London.
 19, *Australis*, British str., from Australia.
 19, *Kaifong*, British str., from Cebu.
 19, *Arothusa*, Amr. transport, from Manila.
 19, *Katsuyama Maru*, Jap. str., from Canton.

19, *Coptic*, British str., from San Francisco.
 19, *Independent*, German str., from Saigon.
 20, *Lysemoon*, German str., from Canton.
 20, *Haitan*, British str., from Coast Ports.
 20, *Perla*, British str., from Manila.
 20, *Daijin Maru*, Japanese str., from Swatow.
 20, *Hysan*, British str., from Singapore.
 20, *Miike Maru*, Japanese str., from Moji.
 20, *P. C. C. Kiao*, British str., from Bangkok.
 20, *Heathburn*, British str., from New York.
 21, *Ixion*, British str., from Liverpool.
 21, *Marie Jebsen*, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 21, *Sunda*, British str., from Bombay.
 21, *Parramatta*, British str., from Shanghai.
 21, *Hoihao*, French str., from Hoihow.
 21, *Mausang*, British str., from Sandakan.
 21, *Queen Adelaide*, British str., from Tacoma.
 21, *Lalpoora*, British trapt., from Calcutta.

DEPARTURES.

May—

16, *Kalgan*, British str., for Foochow.
 16, *Elsa*, German str., for Canton.
 16, *Macduff*, British str., for Shi-wui-yan.
 16, *Hillgren*, British str., for New York.
 16, *Socotra*, British str., for London.
 16, *Evie J. Ray*, Amr. bark, for Rajang.
 16, *Vale of Doon*, British bark, for Rajang.
 17, *Salasie*, French str., for Shanghai.
 17, *Natal*, French str., for Europe.
 17, *Lysemoon*, German str., for Canton.
 17, *Kashing*, British str., for Canton.
 17, *Friant*, French cruiser, for Yokohama.
 17, *Geier*, German gunboat, for Amoy.
 18, *Umta*, British transport, for Taku.
 18, *Peru*, Amr. str., for San Francisco.
 18, *Kwanglee*, British str., for Canton.
 18, *Alcinous*, British str., for Shanghai.
 18, *Charterhouse*, British str., for Amoy.
 18, *Cheangchow*, British str., for Amoy.
 18, *Fushun*, British str., for Shanghai.
 18, *Taisang*, British str., for Swatow.
 18, *Kagoshima Maru*, Japanese str., for Moji.
 18, *Progress*, German str., for Tournon.
 18, *Liljan*, Russian str., for Saigon.
 19, *Leopard*, Austrian cruiser, for Saigon.
 19, *Choyang*, British str., for Canton.
 19, *Chinkiang*, British str., for Canton.
 19, *Whampoa*, British str., for Canton.
 19, *Hunan*, British str., for Canton.
 19, *Thales*, British str., for Swatow.
 19, *Prometheus*, British str., for Moji.
 19, *Indravelli*, British str., for Portland.
 19, *Glaucus*, British str., for Shanghai.
 19, *Sabine Rickmers*, British str., for Amoy.
 19, *Elita Nossack*, German str., for Canton.
 19, *Loosok*, German str., for Bangkok.
 19, *Wursburg*, German str., for Shanghai.
 19, *Hongkong*, French str., for Haiphong.
 19, *Anping Maru*, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 19, *Tsuruhiko Maru*, Jap. str., for Formosa.
 19, *Inia*, Austrian str., for Trieste.
 19, *Gwalior*, British hospital ship, for Calcutta.
 20, *Humber*, British storeship, for Shanghai.
 20, *Descartes*, French cruiser, for Amoy.
 20, *Kyoto Maru*, Japanese str., for Moji.
 20, *Sado Maru*, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 21, *Yuensang*, British str., for Manila.
 21, *Taichiw*, German str., for Bangkok.
 21, *Katsuyama Maru*, Jap. str., for Chefoo.
 21, *J. Diederichsen*, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
 21, *Babelsberg*, German str., for Saigon.
 21, *Pakshan*, British str., for Swatow.
 21, *N nchang*, British str., for Tientsin.
 21, *Taksang*, British str., for Bangkok.
 21, *Benlarig*, British str., for Nagasaki.
 21, *Maria Valerie*, Aust. str., for Yokohama.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Wurtzburg*, from Bremen, Graf Hardenberg, Baron von der Borch, Mr. Pfeifer.
 Per *Taiyuan*, from Australia, Mr. and Mrs. Eadie, Messrs. Davidson, Taylor, Copland and Aronald.
 Per *Salasie*, for Hongkong, from Marseilles, Mr. Alvez Branco; from Saigon, Mrs. Marquez.
 Per *Natal*, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Mr. Burkhardt; from Kobe, Messrs. E. Nasarebla and Monges; from Nagasaki, Messrs. R. Munakie and Yozo Tsibari; from Shanghai, Messrs. S. D. Piry, Ch. Piry, E. Shields, H. E. Marquez, Staff-Sergt. C. Sayers, Bouter, Turco, Robell, H. B. Rutledge and Ngugen Van Hanh.
 Per *Maria Valerie*, from Singapore, Dr. Martin, Mr. R. Fraisher and Rev. Bel.
 Per *Kumsang*, from Singapore, Doctor Howard.

Per *Empress of India*, from Vancouver, Mr. G. H. Allan, Mr. and Mrs. Mackintosh and three children, Messrs. O'Connor and Crittenden; from Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Clark and child, Messrs. H. A. Stewart, F. M. Brown and W. A. Kitts; from Kobe, Mr. C. D. Wilkinson and Capt. Langhorne; from Nagasaki, Miss Elmore.

Per *Kwanglee*, from Shanghai, Mrs. Coulton and child.

Per *Sado Maru* from London, &c., for Hongkong, Messrs. G. Edwards, V. Vandermeiren, W. Wade, A. Holdaway, J. McLeod, Mrs. McLeod and child, Mrs. P. Crisp and child, Mrs. McGlasham and children, and Mrs. M. Taylor; for Yokohama, Messrs. L. Dima, Garristford, Y. Sawaki, T. Inouye and Borton; for Kobe, Mr. F. Maurer, Mrs. Maurer and child, Miss K. Seidlecka, and Mr. G. Haraguchi.

Per *Yuensang*, from Manila, Miss A. Barretta.

Per *Yawata Maru*, from Australia, &c., for Hongkong, Hon. T. H. Whitehead, Mrs. A. M. Whitton, Messrs. R. A. Brabazon, H. S. Harding, J. F. Duff, J. E. Eastwood, D. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. D. Chrystoe, Messrs. R. Brown, H. W. Godfrey, J. E. Briscoe, Miss Briscoe, Messrs. C. H. Hawes, Luis Marino, E. Godino, Major Hugh J. Callagher, Messrs. Philip Paschoe, J. A. Jupp, Francis R. Wardle, and N. F. Fuset; for Kobe, Mr. J. Kishimoto; for Yokohama, Miss B. Breadlay Robinson, Miss Bracker, Mr. A. Stewart, Mrs. Fraser Cleunyn, Mr. F. A. Hyland Master Bates, Mr. and Mrs. Lindon Bates, Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Drysdale, Mr. J. McLaughlin, Mrs. and Miss Colangus, Messrs. C. A. Hack, J. B. Rodgers, Chas. E. Jackson and C. Rosselit.

Per *Perla*, from Manila, Messrs. E. Ludwig and A. A. rausamendis.

Per *Haitan*, from Coast Ports, Mr. and Mrs. Sachville Coldbeck.

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DEPARTED.

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Per *Peru*, for Amoy, Mr. and Mrs. H. Mackintosh and infant, Master L. Mackintosh, and Mrs. Hubble; for Shanghai, Mr. F. Heise; for Kobe, Mrs. Rothman and Mr. Rothman, Jr.; for San Francisco, Mr. Ralph Curtis.

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